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VOLUME 3, EDITION 7

# wethersfield LIFE

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to see growth

See story on page 12

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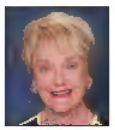
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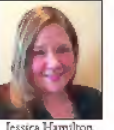
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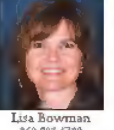


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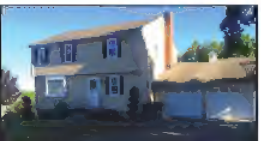
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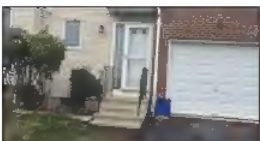
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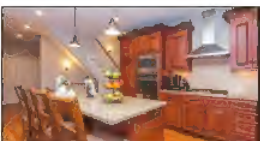
**Rocky Hill**  
Spacious 4 BR Colonial in a convenient location, w eat-in kitchen w island & table space, fireplace, hardwood. Updated baths, new windows, great rec room in lower level, in ground pool, 16x16 deck.  
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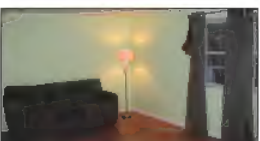
**Glastonbury**  
Freshly painted Raised Ranch on cul-de-sac, hwy floors, new C/A, new driveway, covered deck overlooks fenced rear yard & wooded area. Eat-in kitchen has new counters & appliances. Finished lower level.  
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**Portland**  
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**DonnaDargie.com** **860-883-5419**



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# Wethersfield LIFE

**April 2017**

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## QUOTE OF NOTE:

"It would be nice to get more people involved." – *David Kraus*

See story page 8

## ON THE COVER

Pastor Chris Skowronek, center, is joined by his Leadership Team of Ed Skowronek, his brother, and Randy Fiveash.

Photo by Lisa Brisson  
See story page 12

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**Above:** Instructor Steve Linberg gives student Darcy Adams his critique of her work.

Photos by Mark Jahne

**Left:** Participants in a Bague drawing class practice their skills in the downstairs studio of the Wethersfield Academy for the Arts. **Above:** Steve Fish, Lynn Payette and Bessie Byrd are among the members of the drawing class.

# Steady growth

## Wethersfield Academy for the Arts is enjoying increased interest

by Mark Jahne  
Editor

**W**hen the Wethersfield Academy for the Arts opened in 2007 there was no way to tell how popular its offerings might become. The founders were confident, but it needed to pass the test of time.

Fast forward to 2017. The arts venue housed in a refurbished barn at the north end of Hartford Avenue is receiving critical acclaim from the Hartford area and beyond.

More people are attending its lectures and signing up for its classes. Membership is steadily growing.

The nonprofit organization has resided in the barn since 2011. Betty Standish, chairman of its board of directors, said participation is solid and the programs always make their minimum numbers. Some even have waiting lists.

"It's really about programming. It's about keeping the interest up in the kind of programs we're doing. It's exciting," she said. "We have partnered with the Keane Foundation on some programs. A lot of good things are happening."

Students learn from highly

accomplished professional artists. Class sizes range from four to 15 and that permits plenty of opportunity for one-to-one instruction and critique.

"Individual attention is very critical," Standish said.

If the academy is to continue to thrive, she said its students must leave happy and feeling that they got positive results. Individual attention is a key ingredient of that outcome.

The academy will offer a classical Atelier drawing class for teenagers during the April school vacation week. The cost is \$200, including materials.

Standish explained that Atelier is a European style of art education in which students learn under the guidance of a master artist.

There are classes, workshops and lectures for the novice through the professional to benefit from study, apprenticeship, exhibition and performance.

Open Sketch is offered the first Saturday of each month and classes run in six-week sessions. Upcoming classes include: Atelier drawing, anatomy drawing, figures, color theory and cast drawing.

There is also Bague drawing, based upon the principles of French

artist Charles Bague. Students must draw specific plates he created to look as much like the originals as possible in this foundational program.

George O'Hanlon is scheduled to present a Painting Best Practices Workshop April 13-15. Workshops on 17th century Dutch still life in oils and watercolor painting are coming up in May and June, respectively.

An August workshop on landscape painting is already sold out. The academy will conduct an Art Market fundraiser June 3 in conjunction with the first Wethersfield Weekend celebration.

"It's an opportunity for people in the community to buy real art," Standish said.

Younger students can take advantage of the summer youth art program. The academy is supported, in part, by the Greater Hartford Arts Council.

Standish said the academy's programs are now attracting participants from a wider area. She added that the personal touch of a live class is, in her firm opinion, better than anything one can learn online.

"There's nothing that replaces a live teacher," she said.

Those who select one or more of the programs can develop a strong foundation in their particular style of art. They also enjoy the warmth and camaraderie offered by instructors and fellow students, she added.

Deanne Annunziato commutes from North Haven to partake of the academy's classes. She said they are the best to be found anywhere in Connecticut and hopes that what

she is learning will enable her to become a professional artist.

"I've taken the drawing courses that they offer and some of the painting workshops. The quality of the instructors and the courses offered are phenomenal," she said.

Annunziato firmly believes she would have to travel to Boston or New York City to find something of similar excellence.

"Betty's able to pull in high-quality talent. They are experts in their fields," she said. "Every class, I walk away with a measureable improvement in my skill." **WL**

For more information about the Wethersfield Academy for the Arts call 860-436-9857 or see [wethersfieldarts.org](http://wethersfieldarts.org).

## Coming soon

**April 11, 7:30 p.m.**

Lecture: 20 Recent Additions to the Collection at the New Britain Museum of American Art with Douglas Hyland

**April 13-15**

Workshop: Painting Best Practices with George O'Hanlon, including natural pigments and tools, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily, \$395 for members and \$425 for non-members.

**May 16, 7:30 p.m.**

Lecture: The Value of Slow in Our Lives, Slow Art and Slow Movement with Beverly Pierz





Photos by Mark Jahne

## Solving the case

CREST Dive Team does its investigatory work under water

by Mark Jahne  
Editor

**S**ometimes criminals dispose of evidence of their misdeeds in the water. Other times there may be the need to retrieve a car or person that has submerged in a river, lake, or pond.

Either way, the members of the CREST Police Dive Team train on a regular basis to handle such situations. CREST stands for Capitol Region Emergency Services Team.

It is a shared law enforcement resource staffed by officers from East

Hartford, Glastonbury, Hartford, Rocky Hill, South Windsor, West Hartford and Wethersfield.

These are not rescue divers who rush to the scene of a crisis to pull someone out of a car that may have gone into the water. Fire department or other rescue units usually handle that task.

CREST divers perform a recovery role, in large part because it takes time to mobilize a multi-town team and responding rapidly to active incidents is not practical.

On a recent Wednesday morning,

Officer Jon Lammers of Rocky Hill is suited up and in the frigid water. Training organizers and two other officers waiting to dive (in orange suits) stand beside a hole cut in the pond ice at Bigelow Hollow State Park.

team members traveled to Bigelow Hollow State Park in Ashford to hone their skills in an ice-covered pond. They were assisted by Tolland County firefighters and other emergency personnel that perform public safety diving.

A diamond-shaped hole was cut in the center of the ice that was six

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Photos by Mark Jahne

**Left:** Phil Mugford of the West Hartford Police Department is hauled on a sled to the center of the ice. **Middle:** The Capitol Region Dive Team has several vehicles that carry personnel and equipment to incident scenes. They dive in all types of water. **Right:** Diving suits are cumbersome and air tanks are heavy, so divers are hauled to the opening in the ice by sled to conserve their energy.

inches thick. A smaller hole was drilled 30 feet away. The objective this day was for divers to enter the water through the large hole and come out of the smaller one.

Sgt. Mike Dobler and Cpl. Ron Littell of South Windsor ran the drill. Safety was a foremost concern and all details were carefully reviewed before anyone entered the icy pond. Winter water is typically in the 30s in terms

of degrees Fahrenheit, they said.

"Today's operation is to get divers into the water," Littell said.

The divers would then flip upside down and operate in that manner, like a spider crawling across the ceiling. Whether training or responding to a call, the team always works from what is determined to be safe ice that will not break beneath their weight.

Those who were scheduled to

dive donned special suits that keep them warm and dry. They were hauled out to the diving hole on a sled so as not to exhaust themselves by walking across the ice while wearing these suits and heavy air tanks.

No one goes under the water without support. Every diver is paired with a tender who stays out of the water. A rope connects the two.

Communication is primarily

achieved by radio but sometimes these don't work so well in wet conditions. So they fall back on the still-effective, old-school method of having the tender direct the diver which way to turn, and how to otherwise proceed, by tugging on the rope a certain number of times.

The diver can also use the rope to notify the tender if he is in any kind of distress so that emergency

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action can be taken to save him. The tenders guided the divers from the entry hole to the smaller exit hole in this manner.

Search patterns are conducted in a methodical manner and team members are proud to say that they are able to find items as small as cell phones and handguns in even the murkiest water.

Sgt. Steve Morgan and Officer Jon Lammers of the Rocky Hill Police Department are members of the team. Both are divers, although often one will tend for the other.

Morgan was asked what motivated him to take on this specialized duty.

"I'm a diver anyway," he said.

"A spot opened up on the team and it's something I was interested in. We do evidence recovery, not just bodies."

He started scuba diving 12 years ago.

West Hartford Det. Phil Mugford has been diving for much of his adult

## **"We do evidence recovery, not just bodies."**

**-Sgt. Steve Morgan**

life. He is in his thirty-second year with WHPD.

"I'm a public safety scuba diver, have been for years," he said. "I was a scuba diver before I was a policeman."

Officer Charles Upton is a 20-year veteran of the Glastonbury

Police Department. He developed a personal interest in diving and that led him to join the CREST team.

"I love underwater diving," he said. "We find a lot of small things in the river."

Upton said the team tends to be

activated because of a tragedy or serious crime, often during bad weather and when river currents run strong.

"Any time we get called out, it's lousy," he said.

Officer Al Whaples is

Wethersfield's lone member of the team. He is a certified diver, but his duties with this team are above the water as a line tender and operator of Wethersfield's police boat.

"I've been on the team since its inception back in 2003," he said. "We've had a lot of good times together."

Whaples enjoys both the work and the camaraderie. He described the search patterns the divers employ as an excellent way to find even small objects.

"It's a great system. If we follow it properly, we will find what we're looking for," he said. "We need to start in the right area. We've made a lot of good recoveries over the years." **WL**



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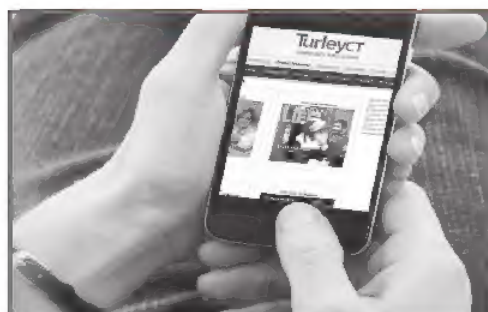
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# They need work

Griswoldville Preservation Association wants to replace signs

by Mark Jahne  
Editor

**T**he Griswoldville Preservation Association was formed many years ago to preserve the residential nature of the historic southwestern part of town that features a colonial chapel and waterways that once powered mills.

It has quietly gone about its business, for the most part, on occasion advocating for the neighborhood at Town Hall. Now it is taking a role in replacing or restoring signs that denote the area's historic significance.

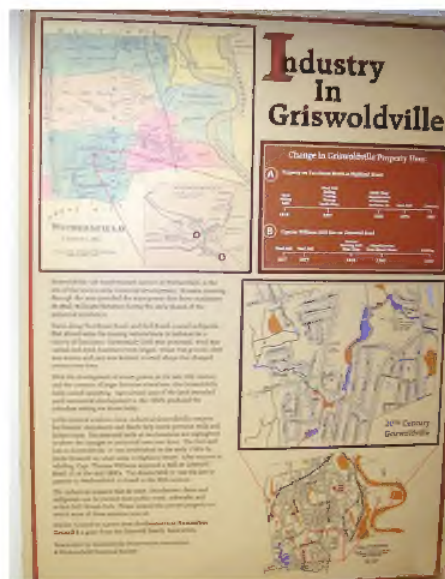
Old Wethersfield gets all of the attention as far as local history but George Washington did pass

through Griswoldville at least three times in his life. The neighborhood is also home to the oldest house in town, according to a 1999 GPA newsletter.

Once upon a time it engaged in garage sales and Christmas caroling. It supports, but is a separate entity from, the Griswoldville Chapel, which dates from November 1872. The GPA holds an annual meeting at the chapel and has done so for more than 20 years.

The founding members of the GPA stated that it will not be engaged in politics and would operate as a nonprofit entity. That remains true today.

"I moved to Griswoldville back in 1992," Martha Mayer said.



**Above left:** This sign that can be found in the Wethersfield History room of the public library offers information about Griswoldville's historic mills. **Above right:** A sign just like the one at the library hangs near the concession stand at Mill Woods Park. It is faded from the weather and needs to be replaced. **Right:** This hand-painted sign with gold lettering hangs on Griswold Road at its intersection with Merriman Road. An identical sign located at the intersection of Highland Street and Thornbush Road was destroyed in a storm.



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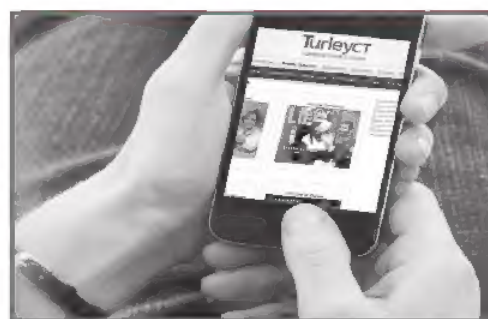
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**Martha Mayer and Dave Kraus are leaders of the Griswoldville Preservation Association.**

She is the longtime president of the GPA and used to lead walking tours of the neighborhood. Dave Kraus of Randy Lane has been involved with the association since 1976.

"Most people don't realize the history of Griswoldville," he said. "This is the 1700s. This is old."

"They built this whole hydraulic system from the reservoir down to the park, with mill ponds," Mayer added.

Back in the 1990s the GPA installed green and gold leaf community identification signs at three locations: Griswold Road at Maple Street, Griswold Road at Merriman

damaged signs. A total of 324 contributions, many larger than \$10, have been received thus far.

"We had \$800 in our treasury when we started this and now we've got \$1,700," Mayer said.

"It shows the strength of the community to me," Kraus added. "It would be nice to get more people involved."

Hand painting and gold lettering are both expensive propositions so the new signs may not be done in that manner. Plus the man who painted them has since retired. Town crews will hang them once they are completed, but the work has not even begun.

**"It would be nice to get more people involved."**

**- Dave Kraus**

Road, and Highland Street near Thornbush Road.

That last one was destroyed in a storm and the association would like to replace it. They were hand painted and finished in gold lettering more than 20 years ago.

It also placed signs at Mill Woods Park and in the Wethersfield Room of the public library in 2001 telling the story of the mills for which the town's largest park is named. This was done with the support of the Connecticut Humanities Council and Wethersfield Historical Society.

The sign located near the park's concession stand is badly weathered and barely legible.

The association recently sent a mailing to 2,000 homes throughout the neighborhood asking residents to contribute \$10 each to fund replacement of the demolished and

"Part of the problem is the cost of these things," Kraus said.

"When the group started, it was a NIMBY group," Mayer said. "It was much more active during the '90s" and members regularly attended Town Council meetings."

NIMBY is an acronym for Not In My Back Yard. Over time, the group decided to take a more positive tack with the signs, walking tours and tag sales. Kraus considers all of those things beneficial to maintaining the neighborhood's identity.

Anyone who is interested in contributing to the sign replacement effort may write a check to the Griswoldville Preservation Association and mail it to Mary Anne Smyers, 76 Ox Yoke Drive, Wethersfield, CT 06109. For further information contact Martha Mayer at m4mayer@att.net. **WL**

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Photos by Mark Jahne

# LIFE

*in the classroom*

## Empty Bowls will help fill hungry stomachs

by Mark Jahne  
Editor

**S**tudents in the town's elementary schools are creating ceramic bowls in their art classrooms after school. It's all part of the Empty Bowls project to help feed the hungry.

This is not a new concept in this town or state. Schools all around the country sometimes engage in the Empty Bowls project. But the students are usually of high school age. Not so here in Wethersfield.

One recent afternoon, youngsters at Hanmer School were busily working to create, paint and glaze bowls as part of a two-month, after-school civic project. Music played in the background as art teacher Rebecca Weaver oversaw the proceedings.

Principal Margaret Zacchei explained that every school is expected to pursue three basic goals this academic year: academic, problem solving and community service.

This project fulfills the latter.

She likes that Empty Bowls encourages students to think beyond themselves or even their immediate families about a need in the community. Statistics provided by the local Hunger Action Team, coordinated by Foodshare, as well as the Wethersfield Early Childhood Collaborative indicate that the number of children and families in town in need of food support is growing.

"Now the focus is on looking out a little more ... this is a wonderful activity to meet our civic goal," Zacchei said.

She also likes that it involves partnering with other organizations such as Foodshare and the town Department of Social and Youth Services, which administers the local food bank.

"This has students working on a hands-on project that they will see through to the end," she said.



**Left:** Brynn Lisella uses a potter's wheel to start a new bowl. **Top Middle:** Mallory McMullin forms a bowl out of clay. **Bottom Middle:** Gada Ali applies some paint to her creation.



**Above:** Some of the finished products are ready for sale. **Above bottom:** Teacher Rebecca Weaver checks out the efforts of, from left, Harrison Gove, Ian House, Jayden Anduha and Emily Doten

Weaver brought the idea to Zacchei and the principal enthusiastically supported the project.

"I picked up on this while attending the Connecticut Art Educators Conference in the fall," Weaver said.

She explained that all five public elementary schools are participating in Empty Bowls but each one is doing it in its own way. Weaver also attended a HAT meeting Jan. 20 and was further motivated. She is in the process of writing a grant for money to purchase additional materials.

Participating students at Hanmer met twice weekly to craft their bowls through the end of February. Their colorful handiwork will be sold for \$10 each and the money donated to Foodshare, an organization serving Hartford and Tolland counties that is dedicated to fighting hunger and providing those in need with sustenance.

"Some of these kids might be among those who benefit," Weaver

said while watching them busily working on their bowls.

There are four different types of bowls being created. This project was offered to children in grades 4-6 and the number of students who expressed an interest was more than the classroom could handle.

Brynn Lisella was busy working on a potter's wheel to mold a clay bowl, the first step in the process. She has become familiar with all four styles being crafted around the room.

"I did it just to help other people. I especially like making things with clay," the fifth-grader said.

While all this was going on, Samantha Coty and Maddie Gove were moving around the room as reporters for the Hanmer Hoot video team. They interviewed the bowl makers while recording it all on a tablet. Their report will appear on a restricted YouTube channel for the entire school to enjoy. **WL**



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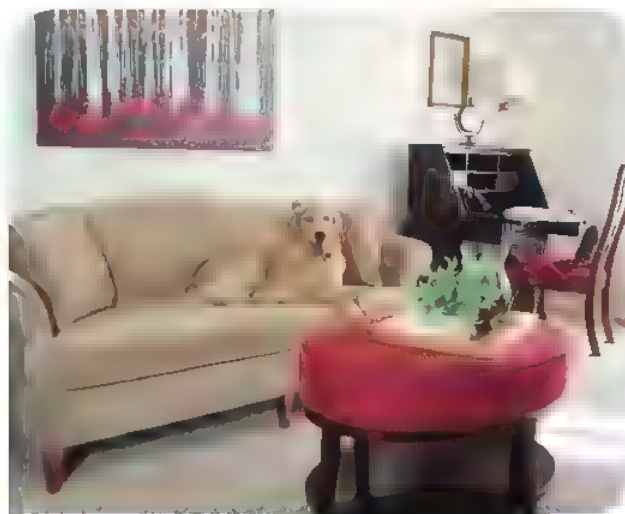
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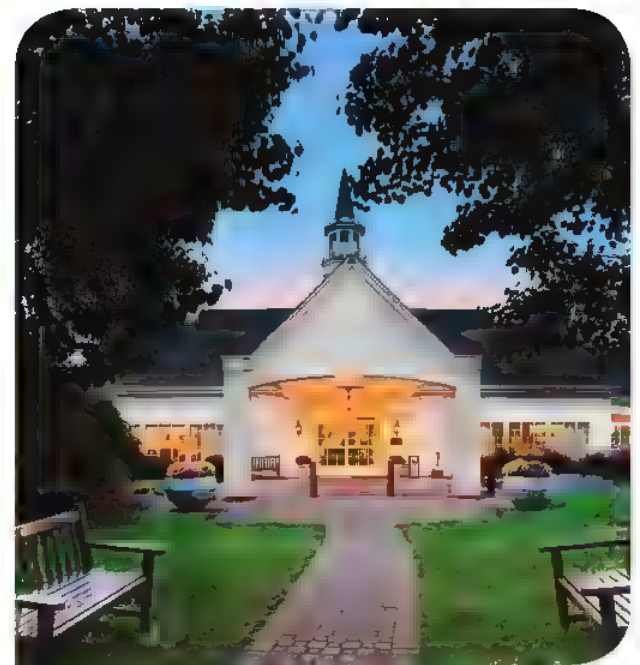
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Member Joe Mehan and Pastor Chris Skowronek stand alongside the cross at CenterPoint Community Church.

## Faith has many faces

### CenterPoint Community Church grows within its storefront setting

by Mark Jahne  
Editor

They may be small in size, but they are mighty in their worship of God. Faith is where you find it and that's just fine with the members of CenterPoint Community Church.

Housed in a non-traditional setting on the first floor of an office building, the young church is working hard to hold events and draw more worshipers into the fold. It is located at 840 Silas Deane Highway on the first

floor of the Marcus Insurance building in space previously occupied by an auto parts store.

The Rev. Chris Skowronek, a married father of four and its pastor, has taken an active role in the community. He is the chaplain of the Wethersfield Volunteer Fire Department and serves with the Senior Citizens Advisory Council. He is involved in other volunteer efforts, among them the Juvenile Review Board.

The church has held blood drives to benefit the American Red Cross, a live Christian music



concert, free comedy nights and family movie nights to raise money for the town's food pantry. Members also prepare and serve a meal each month at the South Park Inn homeless shelter in Hartford.

"We prepare meals for 150," church member Joe Mehan said.

Every Sunday begins with café time from 9:30-10 a.m., at which time services are held. More café time takes place at the conclusion of worship from 11:15-11:45 a.m.

Children's classes and a nursery are held at the same time as the worship service. Evening activities throughout the week include small groups, Bible study, youth group, family activities and community service.

According to its literature, the church strives to help its members know Jesus on a personal level, experience his love in a community of faith, and live out their faith every day. It was formed in 2006 and initially

utilized space at Webb School for worship.

"We opened in this building in 2010," Skowronek said. "We're part of a group called Converge. It used to be called the Baptist General Conference."

Mehan was asked to describe

here is living our faith."

Mehan also likes that Skowronek embellishes his preaching with visual effects. Both he and the pastor were raised as Roman Catholics. Mehan recruited Skowronek for the Senior Citizens

It eventually led to a non-traditional course of study through Grace Seminary in Winona Lake, Ind. CenterPoint has grown to the point where it was able to help the fledgling River Church in Glastonbury get its start.

"It's kind of thrilling to be part of that," Skowronek said.

"You have a spectrum of people in Wethersfield and it seems to me a lot have given up on church. We're trying to do creative things to re-engage people with their faith," he said.

His belief is that they will return to faith if offered a different and more inspiring manner of worship. CenterPoint was created with the idea of offering people another option on how they can express their belief in God.

"Faith is something that people need, no matter what. Our goal is to try to help people reconnect with their faith, reconnect with Jesus," he said.

Skowronek and his

**"Faith is something that people need, no matter what."**

**-The Rev. Chris Skowronek**

the congregation, which has approximately 75 members. They cover the spectrum of ages, from little children to senior citizens.

"It's definitely non-traditional. Definitely family oriented, Bible oriented. My wife and I got involved three years ago. It's the best thing we ever did," he said. "One of the things we really enjoy

Advisory Council.

"When I went to college is when I really started exploring my faith," Skowronek said.

He joined a Christian group at the University of Connecticut and that experience had a profound impact on him.

"That, to me, was a whole new world of faith," he said.



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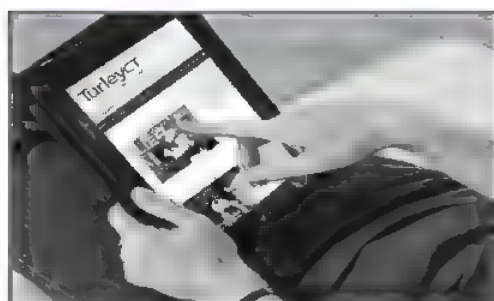
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congregation also reach out to other Christian churches in town to share their faith and maximize volunteer efforts.

"We've worked hard with First Church and the [Wethersfield] Evangelical Free Church to stay connected and work together," he said. "Wethersfield is a nice town in that they want clergy involved. I enjoy interacting with people."

The three churches band together for community service projects and an annual shared religious service.

CenterPoint tries to offer unique programs to benefit its members and draw others into its building. One such example is a three-part series on financial advice.

"If we can just get them in the door one time, they can see what it's all about," Mehan said.

"My experience with church growing up in the South End of Hartford and Wethersfield was

probably pretty typical of most people who grew up in this area. Church was not all that exciting or compelling. I went because I felt I had to go," Skowronek said.

"But when I was in high school, I had a teacher that asked some tough questions about why we went to church and what we believed. Thinking back, he wasn't trying to give us a hard time, but he did want us to think about our faith and why we bothered to go to church, and if either really made a difference in our lives.

"That experience is what really got my faith in God started ... as God became more real to me and as I began to see how much my faith in Jesus was changing my life in so many wonderful ways, I began to wonder – what if the church was less of an institution and more like a family of faith where we learned about our faith together, encour-

aged one another, and because of our faith we got involved in the community and made a difference?

"I felt God's calling on my life to become a pastor and lead that kind of church and CenterPoint was born. It's not my church, it's God's church, and we are a family of faith where Jesus is the center of everything we do whether it's Sunday worship, Bible study, fun family events or comedy nights, blood drives, or doing something in the community," he said.

Upcoming activities include a May 14 Mother's Day brunch and June 3 spring tag sale. The church is handicapped accessible and has additional parking in the rear as well as in neighboring lots. **WL**

To learn more visit [centerpointct.org](http://centerpointct.org) or see its Facebook page.



### Easter week schedule

**April 9:** Palm Sunday service at 10 a.m. followed by a Sole Hope shoe-making event

**April 13:** Holy Thursday film "Risen" at 7 p.m.

**April 14:** Good Friday "Cross Walk" time of quiet reflection with 7 p.m. service followed by Communion

**April 16:** Easter Sunday service at 10 a.m.

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# Spirit guide

Jo Homar moves from corporate world to healing world

by Mara Dresner  
Staff Writer

**J**o Homar is working in the same building where she had a corporate career for years, but her current work is worlds apart.

While she's done everything from running a kitchen in a convalescent home to working as an executive assistant, Homar now devotes her time to helping others in a different way. She was working for a reinsurance company about five years ago when she noticed something curious.

"Every time I'd be coming to work, I'd be getting vertigo. I was not feeling well. I didn't understand what was happening. It was unsettling. I thought, 'Oh my God, I'm allergic to

work,'" she recalled.

"I'd had a lot of heightened spiritual developments that were happening. I was fortunate enough to meet a craniosacral therapist, who was really intuitive, very helpful at that stage."

She came to realize that the vertigo was a sign of disharmony and that a career change was needed.

"It wasn't an easy decision. Society says we have to have a corporate job; we're supposed to plan. I've always done all those steps. I've always been a responsible individual. But there were vibrational shifts in my body, messages I was receiving," she said.

"I went and had a bunch of trainings and attunements. I was certified in Reiki and other healing modalities

so I could better understand what was happening and how to use it to heal myself"

She didn't know at first that she would turn this experience into her own company, Bountiful Blessings, which offers intuitive healing and guidance, as well as Reiki and other services

"I really liked my corporate job and I liked the individuals I was working with. If I wasn't guided in a holistic direction, I'd still be there today," she added.

She first rented a room in Glastonbury and would see clients after work and on weekends before leasing a space on the Silas Deane Highway in Wethersfield. This past



Jo Homar left a corporate job to pursue a career in intuitive healing and guidance.

November, she moved to the Corporate Ridge Business Complex in Rocky Hill, in the same building where she used to work.

Homar has had otherworldly connections since she was young.

"I had a lot of déjà vu experiences as a child growing up, meaning at an

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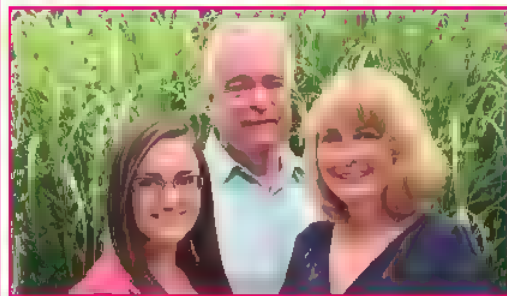
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early age I'd be doing something and as I was doing it, [I'd feel] I had already done it before. I'd have conversations with individuals and knew exactly what they would say and what I would respond with before it would happen," she said.

"I didn't understand what was happening. I didn't have anyone to talk to about it. It was not the norm for the family," added Homar.

"I suppressed it and pushed it down and went about my childhood. Things started really changing when my mom was diagnosed with cancer in 2000. While she was in hospice, she would be verbalizing a lot of future events while in that in-between state of the physical world to the spiritual world.

"It really piqued my interest and reactivated a lot of things that I'd suppressed from my childhood," she said.

Homar struggled to deal with her mother's death. One day, one of her sisters was approached by a stranger at a bus stop.

"He said, 'I don't mean to upset you or scare you, but your mom wants to talk to your sister.' I've always believed in the psychic and spiritual realm, but she wasn't really into it. My sister was, 'Which one does she want to talk to?'"

"He said, 'She wants to talk to the one who just built the big yellow house,'" Homar recalled, which described her home in Wethersfield.

She has learned to use her gifts to help others.

"My sessions are always divinely guided. I'm always guided by spirit for each individual each time they come. They just book the time, whether it's healing or a reading or guidance or messages. A lot of times, it's both healing and guidance. Messages aren't just messages from spirit. There's really a whole healing aspect to it," she said.

"That's why I allow myself to be guided and focused on the individual each time they come. What you need when you come today might not be what you need the next time you come," she added.

"The environment I create

and the environment the spirit creates is a very caring and nurturing environment. The way the spirit works for me is it's always positive information that comes in. It's always a safe environment," Homar said.

"You never hear anything you're not ready to receive. I keep it positive. It's important that you come into a safe and professional environment."

Homar explained that there are four ways of perceiving energies, such as clairvoyance, which is clear seeing, and clear cognition, which is simply knowing.

"I have ability to do all four. I don't get to choose; it's up to them. Most of the time the guides come in and I see them and they talk to me. It's just like

**"I've learned over the years that we all have an internal guidance system."**

**-Jo Homar**

we're having a conversation. I receive the conversation and I can relay it to the client," she said.

"My connection is a pure, straight connection to source, and it's visual and hearing, for the most part. It's like a three-way conversation."

Homar doesn't just work with people, she's also able to help animals.

"Pet communication was very surprising to me the first time it happened," she said.

"I've found throughout the years if energy, dead or alive, has a message to give, it will come through, whether it's an animal or a human, whether they speak English. It's like a grandmother who spoke only Italian and they have to speak to me in English. We're all energy beings, whether we're human or animal. I'm connecting with their energy, their soul, their being."

Deb Smith of Wethersfield sought Homar's services for both

herself and her dog Skippy.

"I was feeling very unfocused, a little anxious and kind of blue. Also, I wanted to ask about my dog, who was acting very aggressive toward a workman at my house and has never been aggressive like that before. Jo explained the dog was worried about me, but subsequently calmed down," Smith said.

"Jo did a healing session which greatly relieved my anxiety, made me feel relaxed and lifted my spirits. Skippy wasn't there. It was just me, but she communicated with him anyway. [It's] hard to believe, I know, but she's the real deal."

Homar said it's not unusual to work with a client who is not in the room.

She also works and teaches in Arizona and she and her husband, Howard, recently bought land there.

"There are a lot of like-minded individuals in that area. They're a lot more advanced or willing to learn or to engage in this type of healing work," she said.

Many of her clients make appointments because a loved one has died or because they have a medical situation.

Homar doesn't ask for any history when a first-time client comes in. On one such encounter, the spirit told her to check for Lyme disease.

Although the client had already been checked for the illness and had been experiencing symptoms for five years, she had a different test and it came back positive for Lyme.

"She left me a voicemail; she was crying, she was so happy, not that she was diagnosed with Lyme disease, but that she had the answer and able to get on the correct course of treatment," said Homar.

While she has special gifts, she said all people have abilities that perhaps they are not using.

"I've learned over the years that we all have an internal guidance system; we're all born with an internal guidance system. Some choose to be aware of it and some choose to ignore it. We all need help sometimes, whether it's guidance or healing," she said. **WL**

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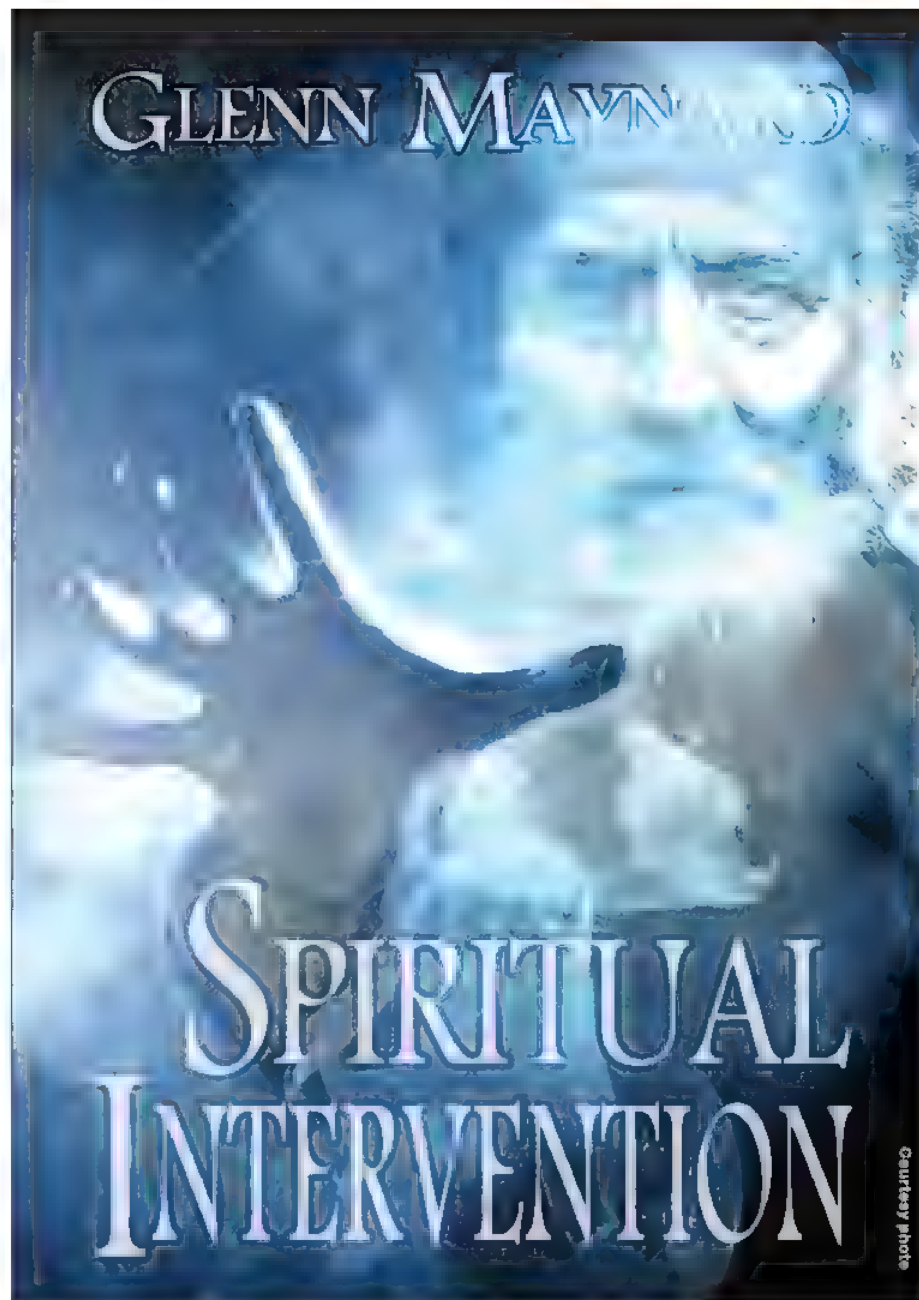
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## Author completes trilogy

'Spiritual Intervention' is final book in paranormal romance series

by Mara Dresner  
Staff Writer

Author Glenn Maynard never knows when inspiration will strike. "I write at night and I think of storylines whenever I'm driving, doing cardio at the gym or engaging in any task that permits my mind to wander. My mind looks at every TV show, news story or life event as a potential story line, even if it's only a bit part," he said.

While he works full time at UnitedHealthcare reviewing health plans, he still found the time to write a paranormal romance trilogy. The final book in the series, "Spiritual Intervention," was published this past December. The other two books are "Desert Son" and "Wayward Soul."

"I was initially inspired by a book about reincarnation and I wanted to

incorporate other paranormal situations such as out-of-body and past-life regression hypnosis. These are the three elements comprising the first book of the trilogy, 'Desert Son,' he said

Writing fiction was a new experience for Maynard. His first book was non-fiction and detailed a one-year journey through the 48 continental states, Canada and Mexico in a recreational vehicle.

"After publishing my first book, 'Strapped into an American Dream,' I pulled out a second manuscript which I had written in the mid-'90s entitled 'Desert Son.' It was only 49,000 words, which was hardly novella size, so I had to add to the length. I elaborated on scenes in the book while keeping the plot intact," he said.

"When 'Desert Son' was published in 2014, one of the excited reviewers

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noticed the way I ended it, suggesting that I did so because there was something more up my sleeve. There was not, but the seed for the trilogy was planted at this time. It wasn't just the second book idea that was planted. I knew then that I needed to make it a trilogy," he added.

"I wrote 'Desert Son' in the mid-'90s as an experiment with writing fiction. I didn't find out until many years later that it was a fantastic tale. Once the enthusiastic reviews started to come in, I knew I had created something special, so writing the trilogy was an easy decision. 'Wayward Soul' and 'Spiritual Intervention' were both published in 2016."

The three books are published by Black Rose Writing.

"Completing a trilogy was the most rewarding aspect of writing this book. The question for books two and three were the same in the beginning — where on earth am I going to take this story using the same set of characters? I found the answers to that question 1,000 words at a time," Maynard said.

He noted that "Spiritual Intervention" continues the journey

of several characters from the previous books.

"Carter and Brenda, the couple who reconnected from a past life in the first book, are married in book three. Martin, the tormented soul who had been after them in the first two books, follows them in their move from Boulder to Boston and now torments their six-year-old son," he said.

"Martin needs to be pushed into the afterlife where he belongs, but he isn't too keen on going."

Maynard changed up his writing routine when working on "Spiritual Intervention."

"I tried a very different technique in the third book in an attempt to keep the third book fresh. I did not write from an outline. There were only a couple of thoughts of where I wanted to take the story and I needed to wrap up the series," he said.

"I just started writing with one goal in mind and that was to reach 100,000 words. I did just that. What I discovered was that I was taking off in different directions and the storyline was unfolding before my eyes."

"When all was said and done, I noticed that it was a good technique

to write more, but the shaping and reshaping process that goes along with editing was more of a monumental task than writing with an outline," he added. "With an outline the majority of the shaping is done in the beginning. Without an outline, the majority of the shaping is done at the end."

Some of his fans are those who have known him for years. Rich Praus of Enfield used to work with Maynard in the early 2000s at Cigna in Bloomfield. After leaving the company in 2006, he reconnected at a book signing in Vernon for "Strapped into an American Dream" in 2011. He's since been to book signings for "Desert Son" and "Wayward Soul."

"I must admit that I was a bit surprised at the subject matter of his trilogy. Glenn always struck me as a somewhat laid-back personality with a good sense of humor, not the type of person that would be writing about the supernatural. This was quite a departure from the subject matter of his first book, which was a semi-humorous travelogue," Praus said.

"Nonetheless, he manages to pull it off and deliver an intriguing story of the intertwining of the real world and

**"What I discovered was that I was taking off in different directions and the storyline was unfolding before my eyes."**

**—Glenn Maynard**

the spiritual world. I'm looking forward to reading the conclusion of the adventure."

Maynard likes being a bit unexpected and hopes that people will take away "an appreciation for the way I put a new spin on out-of-this-world topics like reincarnation, out-of-body and past life regression."

He's already thinking about his next book.

"I'm currently putting an outline together about online chat rooms gone wrong," he said. "Just hope and pray that you don't come across this guy next time you're looking for a harmless chat." **WL**

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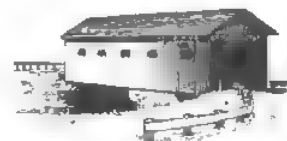
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# Making the grades

The following students were named to the honor roll for the second quarter at Wethersfield High School.

## Grade 9 High Honors

Arden Adamo, Alexis Almada, Basel Altows, Matthew Bagdasarian, Hailey Baranowski, Samantha Bassell, Shandaly Benjamin, Kaitlynn Bertucio, Max Bongiovanni, Sydney Bowers, Stephanie Breglio, Katherine Bridges, Waverly Brown, Erin Brush, Krisztina Buzas, Stefania Calafiore, Rachel Cloutier, Kayla Condon, Grace Conneely, Serena Console, Alicia DiPaola, Sean Donahue, Michael Dunn, Jessica Garcia, Morgan Grabowski, Mia Healy, Christopher Heaven, Alison Ho, Kristina Hoda, Braedon Hook, Mariela Interian, Alden Johnson, Clarence Jubac, Nikolas Kalicharan,

Malvina Katapuqi, Megan Kelleher, Alice Kelly, Zoe Kleeblatt, Caroline Klinger, Rei Koni, Ryan Koplin, Frederick Krol, Aaron Ky, Cameron Ky, Brittney Lanne, Hayden Laske, Kiara Lazu, Lillian Lee, Lauren Lesser, Matthew Lipka, Audrey Mainville, Elizabeth Malicki, Joseph Meredith, Chase Miller, Summer Mitchell, Meaghan Murphy, Nicole Nocida, Clarissa Nock, Connor Pace, Cameron Partridge, Hemil Patel, Mya Pellegrino, Maria Pena, Trevor Pieciewicz, Luciano Quagliaroli, Emma Rakus, Atif Raza, Isabella Rende, Abigail Riberio, John Rumley, Eric Scheuermann, Matthew Silver, Lauren Strong, Hannah Sullivan, Rebecca Sullivan, Kevin Torres, Kelsey Tranberg, Nicholas Ursini, Kassandra Vazquez-Felipe, Christine Vittner-Ouellette and Olivia Washington.

## Grade 9 Honors

Alexander Amado, Zachary Amado, Lucas Amoroso-Whittles, Kyle Anderson, Leah Ayers, Nicholas Babineau, Alina Baby, Owen Barnett, Julia Baroni, Sarah Bello, Ryan Berasi, Brianna Boucher, Brandon Bukowski, Justin Burchell, Alexander Buyak, Joseph Buysse, Amanda Carmel, Sarah Carmel, Joseph Cassineri, Joseph Coleman, Michaela Collins, Robert Cook, Tiffany Cope, Isabella Costa, Kelsey Crandall, Andrew Desrochers, Jessica Driscoll, Abigail Dupont, Kyle Edman, Nathaniel Estifanos, Emily Fazzina, Kaitlyn Fischer, Brendan Flynn, Brianna Garcia, Samuel Garcia, Kathleen Gilland, Emmett Gionfriddo, Gabriel Gomes, Julian Gonzalez, Rachel Gopaul, Zachary Grenier, Jordan Hickey, Sydney Hock, Alexa Indomenico, Dylan

Kalicharan, Max Karkos, Emily Karwic, Abigail Keane, Ellie Kieselback, Aung Ko, Zerina Korkutovic, Elizabeth Laczewski, Mary LeConche, Abigail Lemaire, Logan Lichtatz, Nathan Loura, James Luiz, Cristina Lynch, Charlotte Magel, Abigail Malizia, Michael Malizia, William Malizia, Yulduz Mamedova, Kira McCarty, Taylor McGeachy, Nicholas McGrath, Evan McNeice, Paige Mehillo, Meaghan Merchant, Robert Misseri, Kieran Moller, Olivia Moraes, Tam Nguyen, Kerianne O'Brien, Morgan O'Donnell, Samuel Odell, John Orsini, Katerina Pantaleo, William Pilkington, Camila Porras, Joseph Porriello, Isaac Rios, Jacob Rivera, Ryan Salem, Isabella Samse, Taylor Sapere, David Sardaryan, Amina Shakeel, John Shamo, Abigail Slemmer, Tanner Slesinski, Connor Stahl, Samantha Strong, Zane Tinker, Natalia

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Gaura Mishra, Kenan Mujic, Nicole Murphy, Sydney Ouellette, Madison Patkoske, Alyssa Pearce, Rowan Pelletier, Jenna Sanzo, Jason Scalora, Masala Solinis, Jaedyn Stanescki, Katherine Stearley, Mia Tougas, Micaela Uccello, Elizabeth Veilleux, Connor Wallowitz, Owen Weaver, Haley Whelchel, Mei Xue, Christina Yanaros and Sophia Zagaja.

#### **Grade 10 Honors**

Mark Accarpio, Zoe Adams, Grace Amoruso, Chase Anderson-Birdsall, Kate Ayers, Mark Bagdasarian, Monica Bongiovanni, Mairead Breton, Joshua Chamberland, Lindsey Chmielorz, Madison Cipolla, David Colon, Paige Contenta, Kayla Cruz, Austin DellaFera, Tyler DellaFera, Cenia Diluvio, Matthew Domonkos, Thomas Drake, Afton Dyjak, Katharine Edwards, Craig Elliott, James Errickson, Annisa Ferguson, Deandre Garib, Sofia

Giarratana, Amayia Giscombe, Riley Grenier, Jordan Griffin, Lucyne Grigorian, Kailey Guancha, Zeeshan Haider, Nicholas Hetherman, Holden Hoon, Tai Huynh, Madeline Johnson, Kylie Judson, Arber Karamanaj, Ivan Kaurin, Luke Kelleher, Kavi Khadar, Agron Konjusha, Brooke Kycia, Cassandra Landry, Matthew Laurie, Yasmin Lazu, Jacob Lepore, Tatum Lewis-Holcombe, Gavin Lippitt, Emily Litke, Cheyenne Lueken, Joshua Malizia, Michael Manousos, Patrick Martin, Madison Merchant, Emma Moore, Jacqueline Moquin, Lejla Muskie, Hannah Nardella, Dylan Olesen, Jenesis Ortiz, Jenna Pare, Daniel Parker, Sasha Parmanand, Jake Peckrul, Chit Po, Alyssa Prosperi, Emily Raffalo, Kevin Rascius, Nicholas Riccio, Jorjanna Rivera, Raul Rodriguez, Isabella Scandura, John Schiavone, Jacob Schlapfer, Dimitri Shaposhnikov, Chloe Sisson, Caleb Skowronek, Kaitlyn Swoverland, Alexis Szymecski, Shantall Teran, Ariana Tessier,

Liam Tilton, John Tine, Rachel Vasei, Samuel Veilleux, Angelica Velez, Lucas Villagra, Erion Zeka and Ryan Zwick.

#### **Grade 11 High Honors**

David Adams, Grant Anderson, Shawn Bertucio, Alexander Bielak, AnnaJane Brown, Ling Chi, Isabel Correa, Thomas Dowd, McKayla Dreger, Adnan Fejzic, Jessica Garofalo, Lily Gaunt, Amanda Gilbert, Brian Heavren, Nathan Hrdy, Samantha Johnson, Alexis Kalicharan, Conor Keane, Ezekiel Latiff, Caroline Logan, Juliana Mandile, Malena Mandile, Heather Mayo, Maria Moldovan, Marlena Monroe, Maya Mulholland, Lexi Munger, Anna O'Neil, William Odell, Micaela Pereyra, Sara Pughielli, Karen Rodriguez, Luke Saharek, Rachel Sargis, Isabella Schroeder, Tessa Slesinski, Tyler Stout, Abigail Sullivan, James Sullivan, Alexandra Talarczyk, Megan Tonucci, Eric Torres, Amanda Tougas, Victoria

## 7 Things You Must Know Before Putting Your Wethersfield Home Up For Sale

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This report is courtesy of Sanam Solati Yurczyk, REALTOR®, EXIT Realty Back Rock. Not intended to solicit properties already listed for sale.



Whitaker, Trinita White, Rachel Wilson, Karolina Wlaz and Emma Zaleski.

### Grade 11 Honors

Lexarie Acosta, Mauro Alamo, Ahmed Alihodzic, Matthew Amoddio, Rachael Amoruso, Nicholas Arcata, Emma Augustine, Madelyn Barone, Brendan Barry, Almira Beganovic, Sabrina Berry, Ashley Bilello, Michelangelo Bolorin, Zachary Bonfiglio, Austin Bovino, Eric Bucknam, Rachel Bugella, Rebecca Buonopane, Kendall Cathcart, Liam Collins, Joshua Cronkhite, Justin Cruz, Jessica Darby, Stephanie DeCarli, Odalys DeJesus, Hannah Delvecchio, Jennifer Denz, Joseph DiCioccio, Maria DiMattia, Alexandra Dizes, Brendan Dowd, Jacob Driscoll, Jordenn Edwards, Danielle Elliott, Julianna Fanelli, Derrick Fields, Blake Fulton, Ismael Garcia, Tyler Gomes, Victoria Goodman, Alessandro Gulino, Aldin Handzic, Kenneth Harrison, Tatiana Henry, Jonathan Hopkins, Gabriela Interian,

Camden Johnson, Brian Kallajian, Christian Karkos, Aidan Kelly, Caroline Kennedy, Devon Kleeblatt, Katrina Kurpaska, Julie Lamore, Elena Lapa, Irene Laramie, Samuel Lemaire, Katia Malinguaggio, Hannah Martin, Mariah Merchant, Michael Mozzicato, Emma Murray, Francis Notaro, James O'Connor, Rahman Osmanovic, Andrew Pace, Molly Partridge, Peter Paruta, Jessica Pratt, Evan Presta, Olivia Purinton, Erin Reardon, Jacqueline Reategui, Samuel Reichelt, Juliana Rosa, Jane Rumley, Mirnes Sabanovic, Brianna Santilli, Ryan Sanzo, Veronica Sardaryan, Kaitlyn Sargis, Joseph Scheuermann, Sarah Scott, Brenna Shannahan, Jason Sharp, Nathaniel Sommers, Will Stabach, Michael Stefano, Maura Stewart, Kaleigh Sullivan, Abigail Sywenkyj, Wing Sze, Alex Tawrel, Samuel Tenney, Nicole Teti, Addison Toner, Cassandra Torres, Lucas Torres, Mason Torres, Garrett Tougas, Victoria Tucker, Caden Turcotte, Vanessa Valle, Samantha Vargas, Mallory Walker, Haley Weinberg, Aniela Zawisza and Olivia Zurzola

### Grade 12 High Honors

Kady Allen, Rachel Bahouth, Taylor Bradley, Jeana Bruno, Melanie Burns, Chianna Calafiore, Megan Darrell, Jason Dignoti, JinTao Fen, Dorris Gallari, Lindsey Gordon, Collin Grottke, Bridget Hattie, Abigail Hulk, Matthew Jablonka, Joel Jimenez, Matthew Keefe-Stefanik, Kelly Lamo, Lynne Landers, Timothy Laurito, Jeremy Levesque, Kerry Lindquist, Morgan McMahon, Justin Michaud, Amiel Monasterial, Angel Pagan, Matthew Pazdziora, Emma Peak, Connor Peterson, Brianna Platania, Jessica Roberts, Briana Rodriguez, Samantha Rosa, Steven Santos, Andrew Sanzaro, Alyssa Schroll, Nora Serrao, Hsa Shee, Richard Sipala, Aidan Sitler, Jessica Sitler, Jacklyn Snide, Sabrina Torres, Sarina Tucker, Christian Venditti, Shaelyn Way and Yiqian Zhuo.

### Grade 12 Honors

Sean Arcouette, Stephanie Ayers, Lily Bello, Anthony Berry, Victoria Brazel, Andre Brown, Anna

Cannata, Isabella Casale, Devyn Clark, Jacob Colbath, Audrey Coleman, Andrew Console, Caroline Coyne, Avishek Das, Dylan DellaFera, Vanessa Faienza, Maeve Foley, Kaleigh Hart, Lauren Hubschmitt, Kaitlyn Itrace, Idalis Irizarry, Emily Kallajian, Kathleen Kerekes, Amuna Kuljancic, Marissa Landry, Jordan Laske, Sarah Lawler, Aleah Livingston, Ian Luna, William Maciolek, Katherine McDonald, Olivia McGrath, Matthew Michaud, Benjamin Milano, Emma Moller, William Monticciolo, Ashley Morrell, Michael Murphy, Allison Nargi, Kate Parker, Mary Peterson, Braden Plant, Zana Preniqi, Madeline Raffalo, Brian Rodriguez, Oscar Romero, Michael Santiago, Ray Santiago, Christopher Santos, Eric Shields, Gabriela Silva, Angela Sollima, Sarah Stegman, Roshanay Tahir, Bianca Tata, Sara Trueax, Samantha Urban, Ricardo Velez, Brian Weed and Jocelyn Wilcox **WL**



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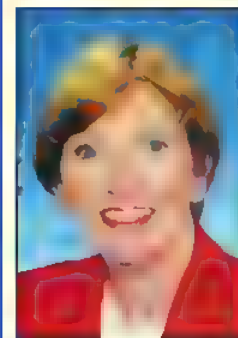
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- Chimurri's Italian Pastry Shoppe
- Friendly's
- Froyo World
- H&R Block
- Hairport
- Lane Bryant
- Mattress Firm
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- Once Upon A Child
- Panera Bread
- Payless Shoe Source
- Plato's Closet
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MY GOAL IS TO HELP YOU FIND  
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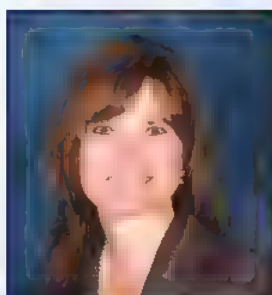
*Jeanette Williams*  
**860.490.3964**  
jeanette.williams@raveis.com | jeanettewilliams.raveis.com

## Spring Market is Here!

**Local Inventory of homes still very low and Interest Rates on the Rise  
Makes it an advantageous time to Sell! Call Us Today!**

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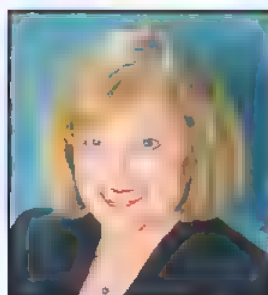
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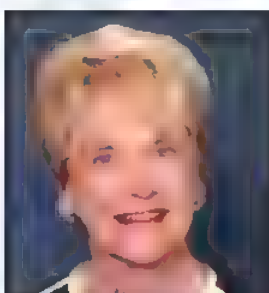
**Sandy Whitaker**  
860-490-0695



**Brent Bowman**  
860-305-8904



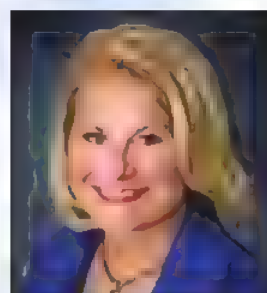
**Cris Walsh**  
860-214-5964



**Shirley Davies**  
860-922-0093



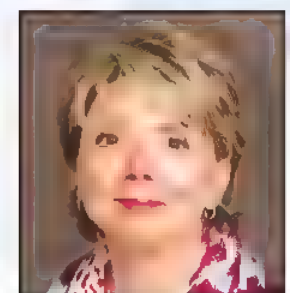
**Joe Rizza**  
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# Real Estate



If you are looking to sell your home for the **HIGHEST PRICE** in the **SHORTEST TIME** **CALL ME!**



Another one SOLD in less than 2 weeks in Wethersfield!



NEW LISTING in Wethersfield - Immaculate 2 BR, 2.5 bath townhouse with fully finished walkout basement. \$178,500

**Julie Lemos**  
860-463-0426 julielemos@att.net  
Visit me online at [www.julielemosrealtor.com](http://www.julielemosrealtor.com)  
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Top 1% in Wethersfield Sales over the last 5 years  
Top 1% of Century 21 agents NATIONALLY



## PREMIERE HOME TEAM CHAIRMAN'S ELITE CLUB

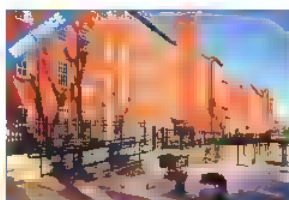
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**MIDDLETOWN • \$309,500**  
Impeccable Cond 3 BR, 2.1 Bth Contemp Col w/2-Car Gar in beautiful Hubbard Estates, Fam Rm w/FP plus Walk-out fin LL, Gas heat, CAIR, Public utilities



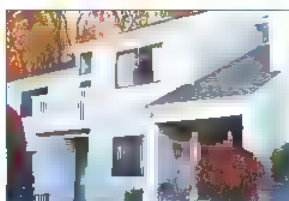
**BERLIN • \$199,900**  
Luxury 2 BR, 2 full bath Condo at the Lofts at Sherwood will wow you! Built in 2010 this home feels like new Hardwood Flrs, Granite counters, Gas Heat, CAIR, Fitness Room & more!



**GLASTONBURY • \$199,900**  
Serene wooded setting in popular Surrey Hill this 2 BR 2.1 Bth Condo w/1 Car Garage needs a little updating but sellers want an offer! New Master Bth, New CAIR & Heating system & more! Dan Burgio 860-808-9219 or Mirella 860-997-1600



**HEBRON • \$368,200**  
Luxurious 4 BR, 3.1 Bath Contemp w/ 2-Car Gar All new Kitchen appliances, Granite counters, Great layout, Fully Fin LL w/Full bath, CAIR, rear deck, easy access to Rte 2 Dan Burgio 860-808-9219 or Mirella 860-997-1600



**ROCKY HILL • \$119,000**  
Very special 1 BR Contemporary Loft-style Condo at popular Brookwood Village near Ferry Park. End Unit, Remod Kitch & Bth, Gas heat, CAIR. Call Karen Parker 860-796-5833



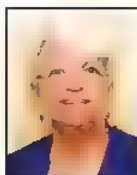
**HARTFORD • \$110,000**  
Great location near downtown & West end of Hartford - 1-BR Condo w/excellent living space, Liv rm w/FP, Guest half-bth w Washer & Dryer in unit plus newly remod Full Bth, Hardwood Flrs, Carport, Private Rear deck, 2nd floor, quiet bldg. Gas heat, CAIR



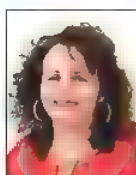
Mary Anne Hepburn  
860-712-3048



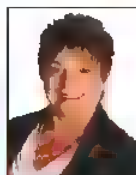
Joan Abbate  
860-690-1354



Cynthia Neznayko  
860-881-8500



Bea Goddard  
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## SPRING MARKET IS HERE!



**Lina D'Angelo**  
Wethersfield Local Realtor  
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Now is a great time to Sell!

Low inventory in our local market ....

Buyers out there ready to buy!



### ROCKY HILL

Built in 2012, Designer 4BR, 2.5BA, 3000 sq ft., with 92 acres of beautiful views of Glastonbury Hills, and Partial Water Views \$550,000



### WETHERSFIELD

Spacious Colonial, 5BR, 2.5BA, 2,503 sq ft., a true classic, great value, make this home your own \$309,900



### NEWINGTON

Updated 1,500 sq ft 3BR 3 BA Ranch home w/ 2 car garage and finished walk out basement \$289,900



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"I am delighted to announce Robert Rossetti has joined our real estate team. He is extremely experienced and very knowledgeable of Hartford County real estate market and will be a tremendous addition to our staff." Said Patricia Deperry Office Leader. "Robert, a Wethersfield resident, is a second generation real estate professional, as well as a builder and developer, who has worked in the real estate industry for over 18 years. His most recent project, TINTY FARMS in Farmington is a perfect example of his love of architecture and design. Roberts sees the walls of a home as a place to hang memories. Robert shares our core values and fierce commitment to exemplary customer service."

Contact Robert today for all of your buying and selling needs.  
Call (860) 614-7740 or email [RobertRossetti@bhhsNE.com](mailto:RobertRossetti@bhhsNE.com)

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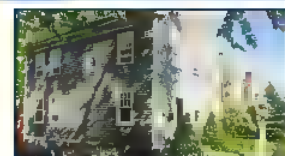
**Wethersfield Homes**



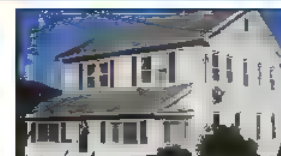
Lisa Bowman, GRI, ABR  
www.RedOnionHomes.com  
860-983-6789



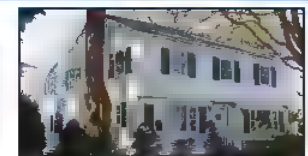
**Put Proven Success on Your Side!**



Charm filled 6 room Colonial in Old Wethersfield!  
**\$234,900**



Pottery Barn decor! 1 BR Colonial, remodeled kitchen, move right in!  
**\$274,900**



Charming Colonial, 8 rooms, 2 FR, 2 car garage.  
**\$314,900**



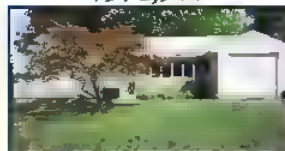
Stunning sunsets & water views! 3600 sq ft, 10 rms, 5 BR, 4 baths  
**\$574,900**



Hard to find 6 room ranch off the Broad St Green!  
**\$264,900**



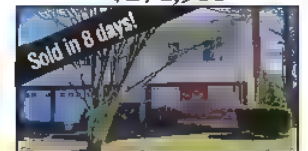
Two for one! Adorable 6 rm Col AND 3 story Barn w/kitchen & bath  
**\$274,900**



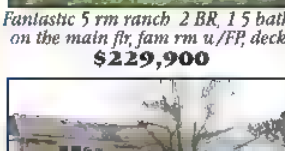
Fantastic 5 rm ranch, 2 BR, 1 1/2 baths on the main flr, fam rm w/FP, deck  
**\$229,900**



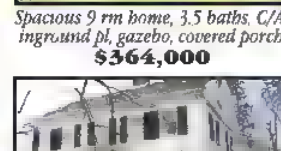
Spacious 9 rm home, 3.5 baths, C/A, inground pl, gazebo, covered porch  
**\$364,000**



Stylish 7 rm, 3 bath home - all updated/remodeled!  
**\$299,500**



1900+ SF Ranch, 3BR, 2 Baths, C/Atr  
**\$312,600**



Very Special historic home & barn  
**\$474,900**



Bright & cheerful, 2 BR Condo at Millpointe  
**\$234,900**



1900+ SF Ranch, 3BR, 2 Baths, C/Atr  
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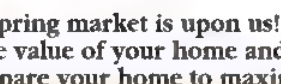
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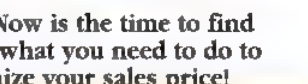
Bright & cheerful, 2 BR Condo at Millpointe  
**\$234,900**



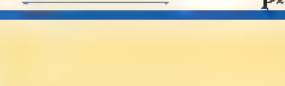
1900+ SF Ranch, 3BR, 2 Baths, C/Atr  
**\$312,600**



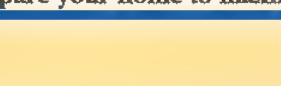
Very Special historic home & barn  
**\$474,900**



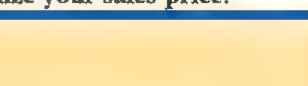
Bright & cheerful, 2 BR Condo at Millpointe  
**\$234,900**



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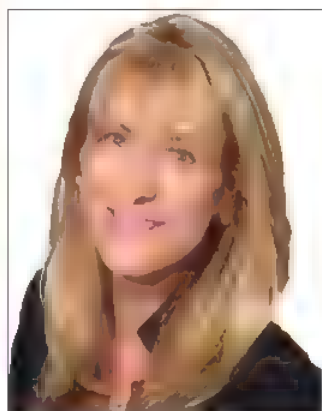


# Real Estate

## WILLIAM RAVEIS

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### BARBARA MYSLINSKI KRUCKO JOINS THE OLD SAYBROOK OFFICE



William Raveis, Chairman and CEO of William Raveis Real Estate, Mortgage, and Insurance announced the affiliation of Top Producer, Barbara M. Krucko to the firm's Old Saybrook Office.

"We are thrilled to welcome Barbara to our organization," stated Mr. Raveis. "She is a superstar in the real estate industry and is admired and respected by her peers and the community. She is extremely professional in her business and treats her customers with a high degree of integrity. Barbara will be a great asset to the Old Saybrook office."

"I joined William Raveis so I can offer my clients the highest quality of real estate marketing as well as the most advanced technology in the industry," stated Barbara. Having been in real estate for 17 years, she earned many accolades at her previous company; such as Top Producer - Centurion awards winner, and Diamond Society Member. Barbara specializes in all phases of real estate with an emphasis on Relocation, Short Sales and Green Homes. She covers the areas of Hartford, Wethersfield, Rocky Hill, New Britain, Manchester, Vernon, the towns along Route 9, and Middletown to Old Saybrook.

A resident of Old Saybrook, Barbara and her husband are the proud parents of Emily and Maya. They both are enrolled in the Old Saybrook Public School system. For the past 20 years, Barbara has lived and worked in Wethersfield. She was always active and proud to be a part of the Polish Community. She served as a member of the Wethersfield Chamber of Commerce and is active with the Polish Business Organization and the Polish National Home Organization. Old Saybrook has welcomed Barbara and her family and she now looks forward to becoming an active member in her new community.

For all your real estate needs, please contact Barbara at 860-883-2099 or via email at: Barbara.M.Krucko@raveis.com.

Her motto is:

"WE START WITH A DREAM - WE FINISH WITH A HOME"



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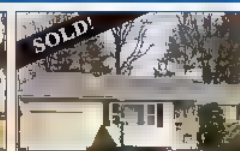
### WHAT IS YOUR HOUSE WORTH?



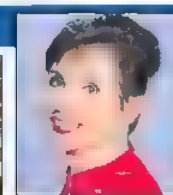
102 Meadowgate Rd, Wethersfield  
\$304,900



30 Davis Rd., E. Hartford  
\$179,000



73 Styles Rd., Newington  
\$185,000



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(860)  
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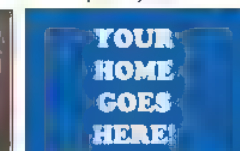
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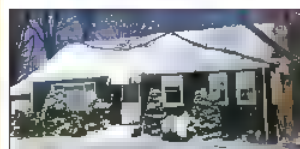
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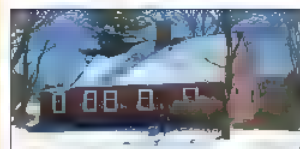
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D	5-11, 12, 13, 14-18
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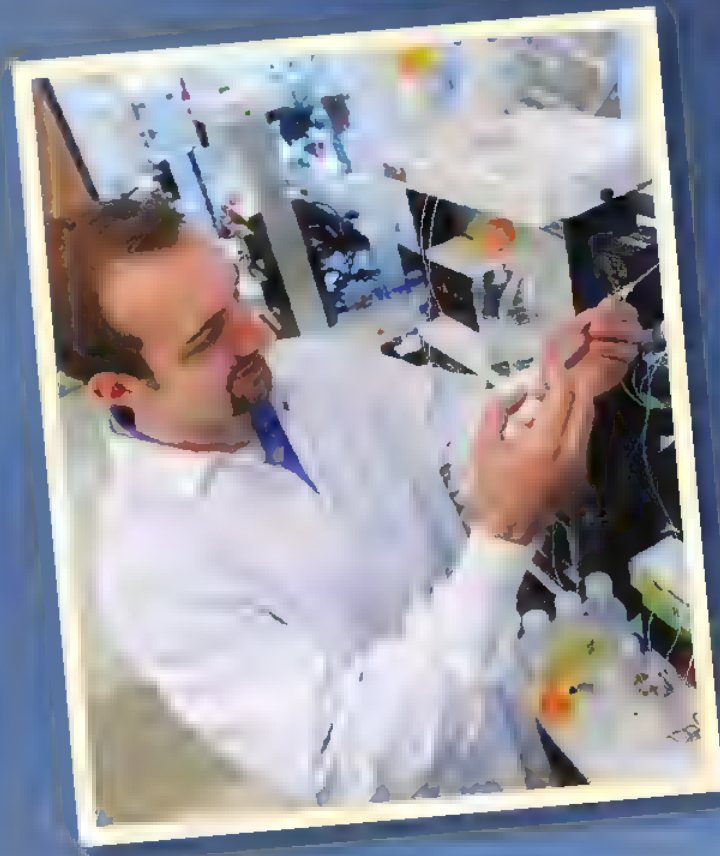
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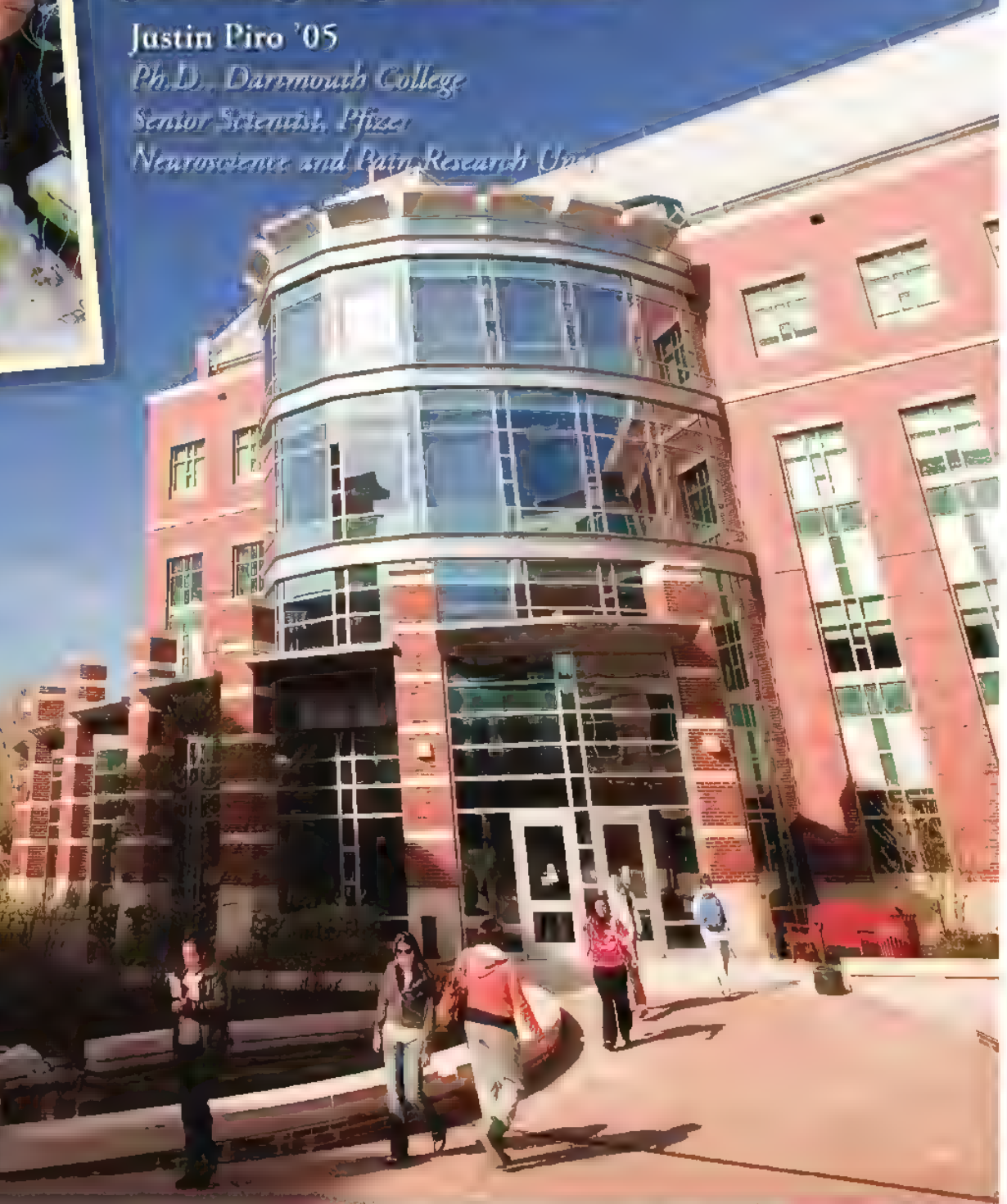
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# News roundup

## Ancient Greece comes to life

Students in sixth grade social studies classes at Corpus Christi School have been studying ancient Greece. Each student got to pick a Greek god or goddess to research.

Then they got to dress up and teach their classmates about the different gods and goddesses. Shown are Hera (Shannon Arsenault), Zeus (Jacob Greco), Aphrodite (Jessica Bogucki) and Athena (Kristen Koka)



Courtesy photos

## DECA headed for Anaheim

Thirty-one Wethersfield High School students competed in the Distributive Education Club of America state competition March 13 at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville.

The competition included approximately 1,200 students from around the state. Fourteen WHS DECA members qualified to move on to the national competition in April in Anaheim, Calif.

## Pillows with a purpose

Members of the GFWC-Newington/Wethersfield Woman's Club delivered 90 comfort pillows to the Hospital of Central Connecticut's Cancer Institute. Shown are, from left, members Jo Late and Pat Mahoney, nurse manager Stacey Barber and Lori Baranowski, oncology nurse navigator.



Mobilizing Creativity

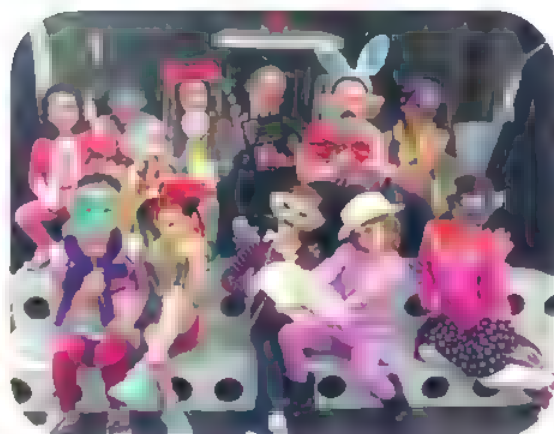
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### Art, eggs on exhibit

An art exhibit by the members of the National Art Honor Society of Wethersfield High School is on display at the Wethersfield Library through April 17. This exhibit features a variety of subjects and media.

In addition, Ukrainian Easter Eggs (pysanky) are on display at the library through April 30. The hand-painted eggs are the artistic work of Tanya Osadca and Zirka Rudyk.

### Helping at the Penguin Plunge

GFWC-Newington/Wethersfield Woman's Club members Susan Haynes, Jo Late, Ursula Hunt and Joyce Blake volunteered Feb. 25 at

the annual Penguin Plunge at Crystal Lake in Middletown. They assisted with registration and handing out incentive prizes.

### Anyone for golf?

The Wethersfield Senior Golf League is looking for new members to serve as both weekly and substitute players. Play takes place on Tuesday mornings from April through October at Goodwin Park in Hartford.

Players must be 55 or older. For more information call league President Christopher Guinan at 860-563-5761.

### Club supports Prudence Crandall

The GFWC Newington/Wethersfield



Courtesy photos

Woman's Club donated 76 pairs of pajamas, 112 reading books, more than 50 coloring books and four lap blankets to the Prudence Crandall Women's Center in New Britain.

This is the fifth consecutive year that the club has made a donation to the center. GFWC members Jo Late, Sally Leiner and Diane Rickenbacker are show with Carolyn Jasper, the center's director of development.

### Holy Week at First Church

The First Church of Christ in Wethersfield starts its Holy Week celebration on Maundy Thursday, April 13. There will be a simple meal served at 5:30 p.m. followed by a Tenebrae/Communion service at 6:30 p.m.

The annual Good Friday service on April 14 is scheduled for 2 p.m.

A Good Friday Memorial Concert takes place at 7 p.m. Admission is a free-will offering.

Easter Sunday services on April 16 are scheduled for 7:30, 9 and 10:30 a.m. in the decorated Meetinghouse. There will also be a 6 a.m. Sunrise Service on Cemetery Hill behind the church.

This will be followed by a full breakfast at 6:30. The cost is \$4 per person or \$10 per family. Call 860-529-1575 to make a reservation. First Church is located at 250 Main St.

### Join the hospice team

Masonicare is seeking volunteers to join its hospice team in Cromwell, Newington, Rocky Hill and Wethersfield. They will visit with patients and their families during the day or on weekends. Flexible.



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Courtesy photos

schedules are offered.

Full training on hospice end-of life care and ongoing training will be provided. Military veterans are encouraged to join the We Honor Veterans program.

Anyone who is interested in becoming a hospice volunteer, or learning more, may call 860-528-

5195 or email [czukowski@masonicare.org](mailto:czukowski@masonicare.org)

### WVAA teaches CPR

Eight residents took advantage of a free Heartsaver CPR/AED class offered March 19 by the Wethersfield Volunteer Ambulance Association. They also learned about Narcan

administration; Narcan is a medication used to combat opioid drug overdoses.

The WVAA will offer another free Heartsaver CPR/AED class from 1-4 p.m. April 23. Admission is free for Wethersfield residents and the maximum class size is 10. Anyone with interest may contact Kelly-Ann Clark at [kaclark70@cox.net](mailto:kaclark70@cox.net).

### Shoes for the needy

As part of its Missionary Outreach program during Lent, CenterPoint Community Church is hosting a "Sole Hope Party" from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 9 (Palm Sunday). Participants will recycle denim jeans into shoe-making kits that will be shipped to Uganda to help end a shoe shortage there.

Children living without shoes in that country are prone to parasites and infections, making it difficult and painful for them to walk. Volunteers of all ages are welcome to join in this workshop.



CenterPoint Community Church is located at 840 Silas Deane Highway in the Marcus Insurance Building. For details call 860-258-0662. **WL**

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## CHURCH OF CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
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### Lenten Calendar

#### **Palm Sunday**

April 9th

Procession of Palms 10:00 am

#### **Maundy Thursday**

April 13th

Service at 7:30 pm

#### **Good Friday**

April 14th

Family Worship 2:00 pm

Evening Worship 7:30 pm

#### **Easter Sunday**

April 16th

Sunrise Service 6:00 am  
at Indian Hill Country Club

Worship in the Sanctuary  
9 am and 11 am

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## GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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#### **Palm Sunday, April 9**

8:00 - Low Mass

10:30 - Liturgy of the Palms & Solemn High Mass

#### **Maundy Thursday, April 13**

6:00 p.m. - Solemn High Mass and Night Watch

#### **Good Friday, April 14**

Noon - Good Friday Liturgy and Veneration

2:00 to 4:00 - Confessions by Appointment

6:00 - Stations of the Cross

#### **Holy Saturday - Easter Eve, April 15**

7:00 p.m. Great Vigil and First Mass of Easter

#### **Easter Sunday, April 16**

The Feast of the Resurrection

8:00 - Low Mass with Hymns

10:30 - Solemn High Mass

*Join us to keep Holy Week at Grace Church.*



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### HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
371 Wolcott Hill Road  
Wethersfield

#### Shared Liturgical Services in Preparation for the Glorious Resurrection

#### **Palm Sunday, April 9**

- Single Service at 9:00 a.m.—Trinity Episcopal—Visitation by Bishop Laura Ahrens
- Services at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.—St. Paul's Lutheran

#### **Wednesday, April 12**

- Stations of the Cross—Trinity Episcopal—12:00 Noon

#### **Maundy Thursday, April 13**

- Service with Eucharist and Foot Washing—Trinity Episcopal—7:00 p.m.

#### **Good Friday, April 14**

- Service—Trinity Episcopal—12:00 Noon
- Service with Tenebrae—St. Paul's Lutheran—7:00 p.m.

#### **Easter Sunday, April 9**

- Worship services at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.—Trinity Episcopal
- Worship services at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.—St. Paul's Lutheran

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April 9 - 10:00 a.m. Palm Sunday Worship

April 13 - 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday A service of "Light into Darkness"

April 16 - Sunrise Easter Service at Rose Hill Cemetery

Breakfast to follow at the church

10:00 a.m. Easter Service at the church

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## ASYLUM HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH HOLY WEEK

#### **Palm Sunday, April 9 | 9:00 & 10:30am**

Journey to Jerusalem and the cross in a powerful and dramatic worship experience, as we recall the triumphal entry of Jesus and witness the journey of Christ's Passion and the foreshadowing of the cross to come.

#### **Maundy Thursday, April 13 | 6:00pm**

A meditative and reflective worship experience recalling the Last Supper and the final hours Jesus spent with his disciples.

#### **Good Friday, April 14 | 7:00pm**

Worship service featuring *Jesu, meine Freude* by J.S. Bach. AHCC's choir and soloists help us begin our journey from Cross to Tomb to Resurrection.

#### **Easter Sunday, April 16 | 9:00 & 10:30am**

A celebratory worship service, where death is cast aside and the light of the resurrection shines forth in hymns of praise, words of hope and inspiring music.

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# People notes

**Ling Chi, Hannah DesRochers** and **Matt Lipka** from Wethersfield High School were selected to perform in the Connecticut Music Educators Association Northern Region High School Festival.

**Adam Ovian**, a student at Kingswood Oxford School, won an award at Yale's Model United Nations program.

**Amanda Civitello** and **Ambika Natarajan** were inducted into the Cum Laude Society at Kingswood Oxford School.

**Bianca Tata**, a senior at Wethersfield High School, accepted a scholarship to play soccer at Seton Hall University next year. She is a four-year starter for WHS and also served as a captain during her senior year.

**John Cascio**, left, the executive director of the Connecticut Funeral Directors Association, is the 2017 recipient of the Brass Apple Award presented by the Council of Funeral Association Executives. Making the presentation is CFDA President Robert Muccino Jr.

**Hannah Horowitz** successfully defended her dissertation and is now a PhD. from Harvard University. She will start her post doctorate fellowship at the University of Washington April 1.

**Tyler Dawkins** graduated from Lincoln Technical Institute in the Automotive Diesel and Truck Technology diploma program. He is currently employed full-time with Ryder.

**David Marottolo's** musical composition "Chanson d'automne" was selected for performance at the Young Composer Concert at the Eastern Division Conference of the National Association for Music Education on April 6 in Atlantic City, NJ. He is a student at Kingswood Oxford School.

Kingswood Oxford School students **Harim Hahn** and **David Marottolo** were accepted into the band for the Connecticut Music Educator's Association's recent North Regional Honors Ensemble. **Matthew Marottolo** was accepted into the chorus.

**Montana Andrea, Mia Carbone, Molly Codeanne, Grace Marino, Nicole Roode, Sarah Ritter** and **Annmarie Rotatori** earned high honors for the second marking period at Mercy High School. **Maggie Silbo, Vanessa Slack, Mary Alistair Vidallon** and **Yue "Emily" Yin** earned first honors.

**Madelyne Colon, Sarah Cusano, Deena DePaolis, Zoryana Dingfelder, David Huffman, Aimee Marone, Karen Orefice, Alexandra Pace, Chrissy Pikos, Andre Santiago, Christina Sorano, Maria Valentino, Ashley Wengzn** and **Marlena Wlazniak** were named to the president's list at Goodwin College.



**Matthew Burwell** and **David Edwards** were named to the dean's list at Becker College.

The following seventh-graders were named students of the trimester at Silas Deane Middle School: In grade 7, **Ella Alger, Naveen Bangalone, Jessica Bianchi, Martina Carbone, Heleina Cicero, Sean Dunn, Christian Friedman-Ringwood, Roshini Gopaul, Samuel Gustafson, Abigail King, Rita Konjusha, Jack Kulpa, Emily MacDonald, Rihanna Privalla, Nathan Stabach, Karleigh Tinker, Cameron Wilkinson, Julia Wilson** and **George Zack**. In grade 8, **Michaela Ashly, Erin Bankowski, Matthew Bielat, Ivana Blazevec, Lynn Blot, Audrey Buccheri, Kendall Cholewa, Madeleine Day, Matthew Fletcher, Owen Gagne, Sophie Gustafson, Annie Klementon, Emma Klementon, Alexandra Lombardo, Ariana Padilla, Lindsey Pia, Isaiah Santiago, Jonathan Skowronek** and **Janelle Stefanski**.

**Christina DeAngelo** was named to the dean's list at Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia.

**Olivia Hurley** and **Chloe**

**Knapp** were named to the dean's list at the University of Vermont.

**Claudia Barone** was named to the dean's list at Mount Ida College.

**Leah MacFarlane** and **Elizabeth Neilan** were named to the dean's list at the Panuska College of Professional Studies at the University of Scranton.

**Madelyn O'Connor** performed in the Colby-Sawyer College Players' production of "Heathers the Musical."

**Fred Stula** was named director of public policy and communications at Harc, Inc., a nonprofit organization in Hartford that helps people with intellectual disability and their families.

**Zachary Mullin** was named to the dean's list at James Madison University.

**Lauren Kelly** was named to the dean's list at Siena College.

**Zachary Birdsall**, a freshmen at the University of Connecticut, was accepted into the National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

**Gina Lanzano, Daniel Murray, Katelyn Rutty** and **Luke Surawski** were named to the president's list at Western New England University. **WL**

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# April calendar

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

**1 Friends of the Library Book Sale**, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2811 or [wethersfieldlibrary.org](http://wethersfieldlibrary.org), also 1-4 p.m. April 2

**Annual Safe Grad Fundraising Dance**, 7 p.m., Pitkin Community Center, 30 Greenfield St., [agrottke@gmail.com](mailto:agrottke@gmail.com)

**4 Teen Advisory Group**, 2:30 p.m., for grades 7-12, Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2801 or [wethersfieldlibrary.org](http://wethersfieldlibrary.org)

**5 Teen Anime Fan Party**, 2:30 p.m., for grades 7-8, registration required, Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2801 or [wethersfieldlibrary.org](http://wethersfieldlibrary.org)

**6 Teen Tech Thursday**, 2:30 p.m., for grades 7-12, registration required, for grades 7-12, Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2801 or [wethersfieldlibrary.org](http://wethersfieldlibrary.org)

**Newington/Wethersfield Woman's Club Military Whist**, 6 p.m., Pitkin Community Center, 30 Greenfield St.

**Writing Workshop**, 6:30 p.m., registration required, Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2811 or [wethersfieldlibrary.org](http://wethersfieldlibrary.org), part two takes place at 6:30 p.m. April 20

**7 Drop-in Playtime/Storytime**, 10 a.m. to noon, Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2801 or [wethersfieldlibrary.org](http://wethersfieldlibrary.org), also April 14, 21 and 28

**8 Saturday Cinema: "Glory,"** 1:30 p.m., Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2811 or [wethersfieldlibrary.org](http://wethersfieldlibrary.org)

**150 Prospect Coffeehouse**, 6:30 p.m., Wethersfield United Methodist Church, 150 Prospect St., 860-614-5158 or [tanjam@comcast.net](mailto:tanjam@comcast.net)

**Taste of Wethersfield**, 7-9 p.m., Keeney Memorial Cultural Center, 200 Main St., \$35 in advance, \$40 at the door, 860-529-7656 or [wethersfieldhistory.org](http://wethersfieldhistory.org)

**Comedy Night**, 7 p.m., Pitkin Community Center, 30 Greenfield St., \$25 admission, 860-550-3726 or [wethersfieldhockeyalumni@yahoo.com](mailto:wethersfieldhockeyalumni@yahoo.com)

**11 Keeney Kids Spring History Program**, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Keeney Memorial Cultural Center, 200 Main St., 860-529-7656 or [wethersfieldhistory.org](http://wethersfieldhistory.org), also April 12

**Art Lecture: 20 Recent Additions to the New Britain Museum of American Art**, 7:30 p.m., Wethersfield Academy for the Arts, 431 Hartford Ave., 860-436-9857 or [wethersfieldarts.org](http://wethersfieldarts.org)

**12 iPad Basics**, 2:30 p.m., registration required, Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-529-2665 or [wethersfieldlibrary.org](http://wethersfieldlibrary.org)

**17 Microsoft Word Basics**, 6:30 p.m., registration required, Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-529-2665 or [wethersfieldlibrary.org](http://wethersfieldlibrary.org)

**19 Teen Midweek Mayhem**, 2:30 p.m., for grades 7-12, registration required, Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2811 or [wethersfieldlibrary.org](http://wethersfieldlibrary.org)

**20 Teen Comic Construction**, 2:30 p.m., for grades 7-12, registration required, Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2811 or [wethersfieldlibrary.org](http://wethersfieldlibrary.org)

**22 Versicolor Natural Silk Scarf Dyeing**, 2 p.m., registration required, Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2811 or [wethersfieldlibrary.org](http://wethersfieldlibrary.org)

**Spring Chicken Dinner**, 4:30-7 p.m., Wethersfield United Methodist Church, 150 Prospect St., 860-529-2025, \$12 for adults and \$6 for children younger than 10

**24 Hoopla (New Library Service)**, 6:30 p.m., registration required, Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-529-2665 or [wethersfieldlibrary.org](http://wethersfieldlibrary.org)

**25 Teen Matinee**, 2:30 p.m., for grades 7-12, registration required, Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2811 or [wethersfieldlibrary.org](http://wethersfieldlibrary.org)

**GFWC Newington/Wethersfield Woman's Club**, 6:30 p.m., Jefferson House, 1 John H. Stewart Drive, Newington, 860-310-7015

**27 Joe Cadena in Concert**, 6:30 p.m., Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2811 or [wethersfieldlibrary.org](http://wethersfieldlibrary.org)

**28 "Cyber Hop" Spring Dance sponsored by the Friends of the Eleanor Buck Wolf Nature Center**, 7 p.m., Pitkin Community Center, 30 Greenfield St., \$20 per person, 860-306-2079 or 860-721-2981 **WL**

*Is your club, community organization, school or house of worship holding an event open to the general public? If so, please send us the details for inclusion in our calendar. Email your events to Mark Jahne at [mjahne@turleyct.com](mailto:mjahne@turleyct.com) or mail them to Turley CT Community Publications, 540 Hopmeadow St., Simsbury, CT 06070.*



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## Jasper

Jasper is a black male domestic shorthair mix with a gentle disposition and friendly nature. Just 2 years old, he is neutered and best suited for a home where the children are age 8 or older and respectful of animals. He's OK sharing his new home with other cats, but has no experience living with a dog. Any kind of home is welcome, whether it's a single-family, multi-family or condominium residence.



## Ivy

Ivy is a senior citizen in dog terms. She is a friendly 11-year old Terrier/Staffordshire Bull mix. She's spayed and housebroken and would do well in either a single family home or condo. Children of any age are fine and so are cats, but other dogs could create a problem for this gentle old gal. She likes to relax and hopes to find a family with prior general dog experience.

*Inquiries about adoption may be made at the Connecticut Humane Society, 701 Russell Road, Newington. Call 860-594-4500. More information, including videos, can be found online at [cthumane.org](http://cthumane.org). Click on "Adopt" and "Newington." The Connecticut Humane Society is a private organization and has no time limits for adoption. WL*

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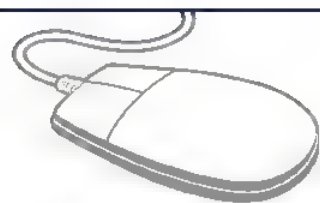
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# Slice of LIFE

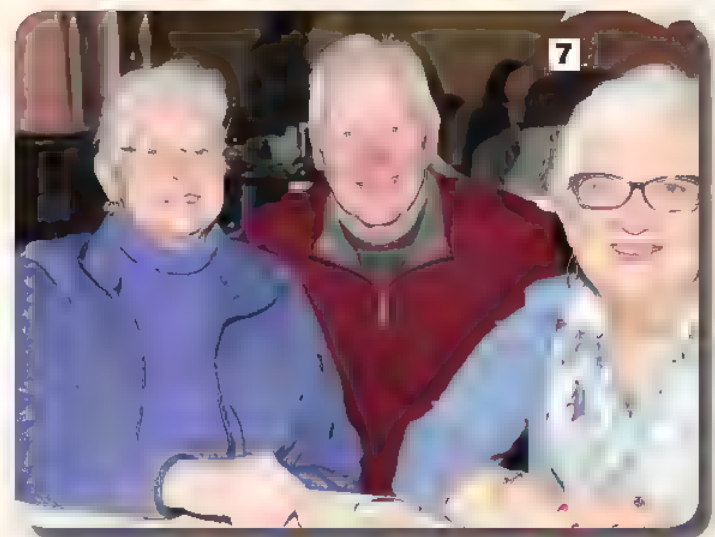
photos by Lisa Brisson



## Toe-tapping music creates smiles

The Wethersfield Historical Society's Keeney Cultural Series winter concerts concluded two days after St. Patrick's Day with a performance by the traditional Celtic folk music group The Jolly Beggars. **1.** Jeff DesRosier, a native of Wethersfield, sings and plays mandolin and guitar. The group intertwines traditional Celtic folk favorites with original compositions. Their fourth album, entitled "Against the Wide Sky," is due to be released in the fall. **2.** Bob and Mary Latham enjoy the show. **3.** Bill Mazzara and Brian Morin carefully pour Guinness into their beer cups. **4.** Christopher Vece sings and plays the tin whistle. **5.** Tulla Brooks and family friend Casey Williamson dance to the Celtic folk music. **6.** Michael O'Halloran, a member of the governing board of the historical society, introduces the band. **7.** Elaine St. Onge, a member of the society's governing board, catches up with Wesley Sargent and Shirley Fulton before the music starts. **8.** Working the ticket counter are WHS Executive Director Amy Wittorff, Program Coordinator Beth Thompson and Sheila Hennessey, chairman of the society's governing board. **9.** Joan Zawacki toasts pals Patty Stevens and Ruth Clancy. Audience members brought along picnic baskets full of treats and libations. **10.** George Oikle, left, chats with Joe and Barbara Hickey prior to the start of the show. **11.** John and Bobbie Coughlin enjoy the afternoon with Susan Peak and Nancy Driska. **12.** The Jolly Beggars perform as part of the winter concerts presented by the Wethersfield Historical Society's Keeney Cultural Series.







# Events *spotlight*

## Friends of the Library Book Sale

April 1-2

Wethersfield Library

860-257-2811

or [wethersfieldlibrary.org](http://wethersfieldlibrary.org)

The Friends of the Wethersfield Library present their annual spring book sale, kicked off by a preview evening from 5-8 p.m. March 30. Sale hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 1 and 1-4 p.m. April 2. Admission to the preview is \$5, the other two days are free. Sunday features the opportunity to buy a bag for \$5 and fill it with books.

## Safe Grad Dance

April 1, 7 p.m.

Pitkin Community Center

[agrottke@gmail.com](mailto:agrottke@gmail.com)

This event will raise funds for the annual all-night safe graduation party for Wethersfield High School seniors. The cost is \$30 per person and guests must bring their own food and beverages. There will be dancing, drawings and the opportunity to bid on silent auction items

## Taste of Wethersfield

April 8, 7-9 p.m.

Keeney Cultural Center

860-529-7656 or

[wethersfieldhistory.org](http://wethersfieldhistory.org)

The Wethersfield Historical Society hosts this 12th annual event featuring live music and food. General admission tickets are \$35 when purchased in advance and can be acquired online at [wethersfieldhistory.org](http://wethersfieldhistory.org), [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com), by mailing a check or coming to the society's office at 150 Main St. Tickets can also be purchased at the door for \$40

## Comedy Night

April 8, 7 p.m.

Pitkin Community Center

860-550-3726

[wethersfieldhockeyalumni@yahoo.com](mailto:wethersfieldhockeyalumni@yahoo.com)

Wethersfield High School Alumni Hockey presents its annual Comedy Night of laughter and fund raising. Admission is \$25 per person or \$125 for a table of six. Profits will go to the WHS Hockey/Coogan Scholarship Fund. Mail



checks to Arnie Mason, 644 Prospect St., Wethersfield, CT 06109.

## Keeney Kids

April 11-12, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Keeney Memorial Cultural

Center, 200 Main St.

860-529-7656 or

[wethersfieldhistory.org](http://wethersfieldhistory.org)

This Wethersfield Historical Society offers this program for children in grades 1-6. They will explore local history through activities, tours, stories and games at various sites. The fee for one day is \$20 for society members and \$25 for non-members; the two-day fee is \$40 for society members and \$50 for non-members, with a registration deadline of April 3.

## Art Lecture

April 11, 7:30 p.m.

Wethersfield Academy for the Arts, 431 Hartford Ave.

860-436-9857/[wethersfieldarts.org](http://wethersfieldarts.org)  
Douglas Hyland, former director of the New Britain Museum of American Art, will discuss 20 recent additions to the collection.

## "Cyber Hop" Spring Dance

April 28, 7 p.m.

Pitkin Community Center

860-306-2079 or 860-721-2981

The Friends of the Eleanor Buck Wolf Nature Center present this annual spring fund-raising dance. Tickets are \$20 per person.

## Foxwoods Casino Bus Trip

April 30, 10 a.m.

860-997-1600

[mirella.dantonio@raveis.com](mailto:mirella.dantonio@raveis.com)

The Young Italian American Ladies Auxiliary is sponsoring this casino outing to benefit its scholarship fund. The \$25 fee covers transportation, a meal ticket and more.

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# Sharing his love of tennis

## Ian Thompson helps train athletes for the Special Olympics

by Mark Jahne

Edit

**T**ennis is a fairly new event for Wethersfield residents who want to participate in the Special Olympics. To help them prepare, Ian Thompson works with these athletes to help them learn the skills to become successful players.

They practice at either the Stillman courts in Old Wethersfield or Pine Acres Swim and Tennis Club from June through August. The rest of the year the group can be found indoors at the Rocky Hill Tennis Center.

Ian, who is a senior at Xavier High School in Middletown, is training five players ages 10 to 19 with the help of Molly Garcia of Portland, a member of the tennis team at Mercy High School in Middletown.

"My dad [Paul] got me started at Pine Acres," he said

That was six years ago. Ian, now

17 years old, became accomplished enough at the game that he made the varsity squad all four years at Xavier.

"Me and my doubles partner made it to the second round of the state's last season," he said

The idea to teach special needs youngsters how to play tennis evolved over time.

"It started from scratch. I started working on it over the summer and the first official season was in the fall," Ian said. "I worked at Pine Acres as a tennis instructor. I use it as training as well for tennis season."

He saw children with autism struggling to learn the game and thought he could help. His father encouraged him to follow through with that idea

"It's going very well. I've heard really positive comments from the parents," Ian said.

He is waiting to hear back from



Ian Thompson, left, stands alongside tennis students Danny Bighinatti, Brooke Landry, Jackson Landry, Oscar Velasco and David Velasco.

the last of three colleges he applied to before deciding where he will matriculate. Wherever he goes, he expects to continue playing tennis at the club level, but not as a varsity sport.

Ian also plays soccer and ran on his school's indoor track team. Three of his pupils came to him with absolutely no experience but that didn't present a problem.

"I'm on the board of directors at Pine Acres for tennis," Paul Thompson said. "I helped Ian approach the club to get donated court time."

He also serves as an adult supervisor to his son's program. He spoke of the level of enthusiasm the young people display

"Every single player wants to be here," he said.

Thompson expects more players will join the program as word of it spreads. He's also working in conjunction with Natalie Morrison of the town Parks and Recreation Department, who organizes the town's Special Olympics contingent, and said they enjoy the support of the Town Council.

The hope is that one or more of these tennis students will be able to qualify to participate in the Special Olympics.

Ian will be going away to college in September, so his next priority is to find someone to take his place until he returns to town in May 2018. *WJ*

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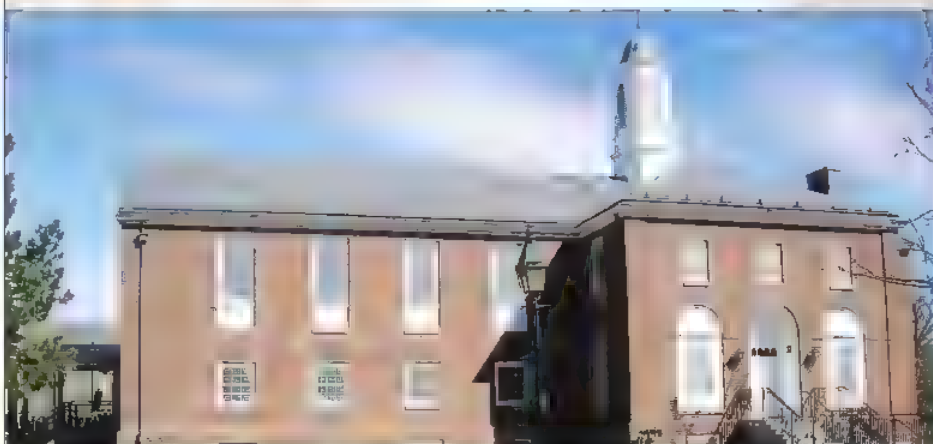
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Photos by Mark Jahne

Children enrolled in the First Church Preschool sing welcoming songs to the guests who toured the renovated Marsh Building.



The Marsh Building at the First Church of Christ in Wethersfield was in serious need of repair. A \$2.7 million project that took more than a decade to go from concept to construction was recently completed.

# Worth the wait

First Church unveils repairs and renovations to its Marsh Building

by Mark Jahne  
Editor

It took 14 years of planning and struggle, but the work is now complete. The multi-purpose Marsh Building at the First Church of Christ in Wethersfield has been repaired, renovated and turned into a welcoming, bright facility that can host a number of uses.

Church officials offered a tour of the building to town officials and other guests the morning of March 9. After a few words of welcome, everyone was ushered into a large room where children from the preschool program that is housed at First Church greeted everyone with song.

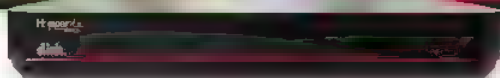
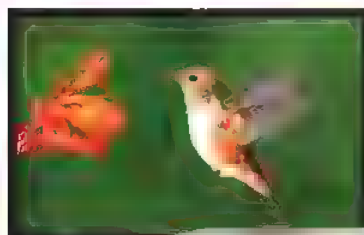
The fully renovated two-story brick building was originally con-

structed in the 1950s. It now features the spacious Keith Jones Hall, a sitting parlor, a kitchen, David C. Spicer Music Room, Mildred E. Jones Media Room & Art Gallery, a prayer room, outreach gift shop and other spaces where meeting and classes can be conducted.

The space will also be used for choir rehearsal, contemporary worship, concerts and dinner. It cost \$2.7 million to complete the repairs and renovations. Church officials made it a point of emphasis that they want to share this space with the community at large.

A major impetus for this project, funded by a capital campaign launched in 2015, is the steady

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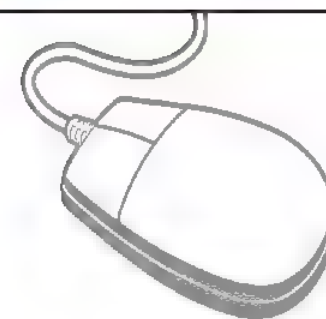
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**“Our vision is to have a place to be a family and to welcome our community, so that, in the future, First Church is always at the center of our community.”**

**—Paul Breglio**

growth of attendance at the contemporary worship service that was founded in 2001. Removing an outdated elevated stage and installing modern seating in the upstairs hall of the Marsh Building provides space for 173 worshippers.

Heating and air conditioning systems were updated. The project brought the building into

compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act as well as modern building and fire codes.

“Decades ago, our facilities expanded through the labor and sacrifice of previous generations and now it was our turn to do our part,” board President Paul Breglio said.

“Our vision is to have a place to be a family and to welcome our community, so that, in the future, First Church is always at the center of our community.”

First Church looks for ways to meet human needs in town and throughout Greater Hartford, the Rev. Deryk Richenbourg said. He serves as senior pastor.

It hosts a state-certified preschool program, American Red Cross blood drives and ministries for those suffering from divorce or the loss of a loved one. Local children are invited to attend its summer Vacation Bible Camp.

“We’ve been linked with the town of Wethersfield for more than 380 years. We want to find ways to continue to have that

link moving forward,” Richenbourg said.

The congregation recently formed a group that is working to combat human trafficking in Connecticut.

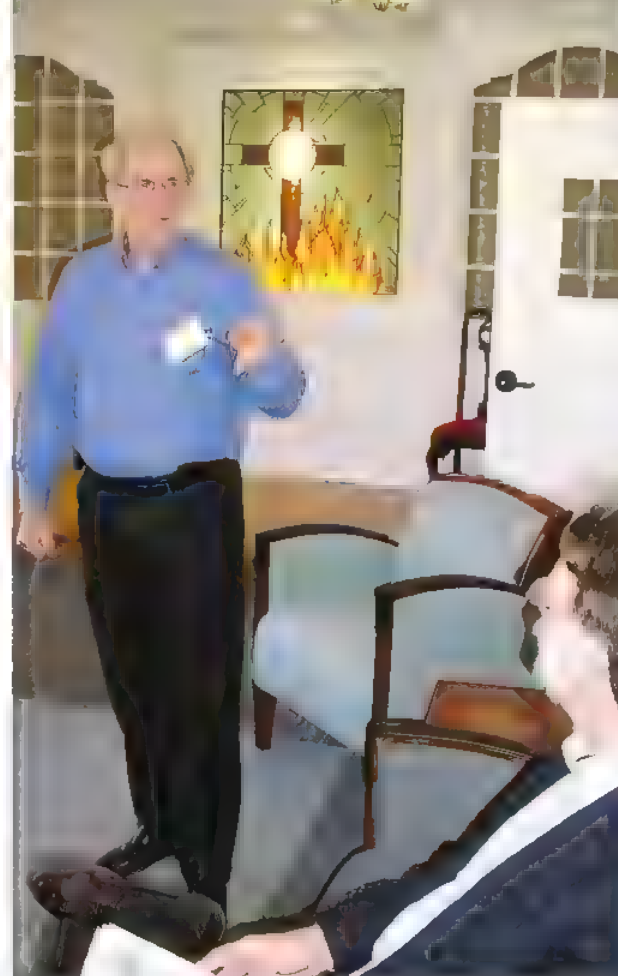
“We had lost a third of this building to mold, mildew and moisture,” Breglio said during the tour.

They also had to correct a significant groundwater problem.

The historic Meetinghouse at First Church, located in the center of the largest historic district in Connecticut, was erected in 1761 to serve a congregation dating from 1635. It also served as the assembly hall for town meetings, a role it fulfilled until 1838.

Famous people including Jonathan Edwards, George Washington and John Adams visited and/or worshipped at this church. The Marsh Building is connected to the sanctuary on its east side. The building was named for the Rev. John Marsh, who served as senior pastor from 1774-1821. **WL**

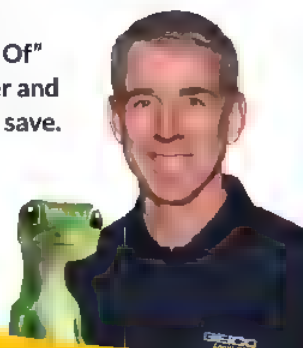
David Luce offers a tour of the new chapel in the Marsh Building.



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# Recalling the flames

Hartford circus fire survivor  
looks back on her narrow escape

by Mark Jahne  
Editor

**W**hat most people remember about the circus is the elephants or the tigers. Or maybe it's the acrobats or the clowns

When Dolores (Sicilia) DiFazio thinks about the circus, she thinks about flames.

The longtime Wethersfield resident was 8 years old when she went with her mother and older brother Alexander to the circus on July 6, 1944, the date of the infa-

mous Hartford circus fire.

A total of 168 people perished in that blaze and at least 484 more suffered injuries. In those days paraffin, an inflammable substance, was used to make the canvas big top tent covering the circus waterproof. It served as fuel for the flames.

She hadn't thought much about the fire for decades but the memories came rushing back when the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus recently announced that it was ceasing operations.

Photos by Mark Jahne

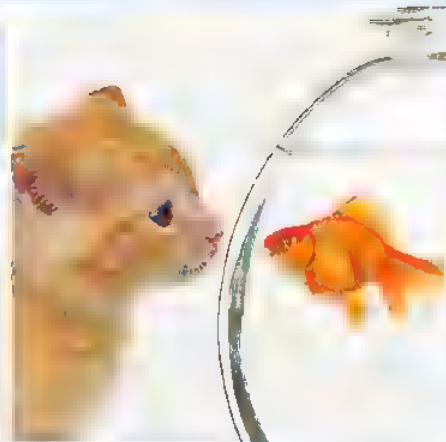


Dolores DiFazio holds a book about the 1944 Hartford circus fire written by Stewart O'Nan. She is a survivor of that fire.

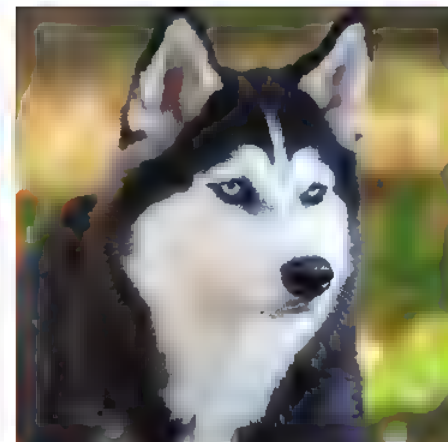








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# Editorial

## Another unpleasant budget season arrives

**S**ome year, towns will be able to enjoy a budget cycle when money is sufficient, new initiatives can be launched and the mill rate can be reduced to make the lives of taxpayers less stressful. But not this year.

Just when it looked like Connecticut might be coming out of a decade long recession, the bottom fell out of the state budget. Legislators are struggling to find ways to stop the red ink from washing over the budget like a tsunami, already more than \$1 billion in deficit.

One of the problems with this scenario is that it trickles down in a mighty way to cities and towns. Municipalities depend upon state financial assistance to balance their own budgets and keep local taxes under control. Many get 15 percent of more of their total annual budget from the state.

That number is likely to be much less this year. The legislature needs to trim everywhere it

can and it also has to deal with making sure that Hartford, which is in dire financial straits, does not go belly up. This does not bode well for most towns.

As any homeowner knows, it costs more each year just to live the same life and pay for the same goods and services. Prices for everything from food to electricity to gasoline to countless other needs rise on an annual basis.

The same is true for municipalities. Maintaining the status quo still costs more money than it did the previous year and usually results in a tax increase of 1 or 2 percent. Much of that is driven by labor costs, but people are an integral part of government and public education.

The real problem is the heavy dependence on the property tax to fund local government. Most other states don't allow this one tax to bear so much of the fiscal burden.

When he conducted his traveling road show seeking input and support from the suburbs, Hartford Mayor Luke

Bronin suggested that state government take a small percentage of its sales tax revenue and designate that for municipal aid. That's a good idea.

Of course, this makes the task of balancing the state budget more difficult. So the likelihood of his suggestion being adopted is weak.

Bronin and many other mayors and first selectmen have also called for maintaining, or even increasing, state aid, especially the PILOT program that provides partial payment for otherwise tax-exempt state buildings, hospitals, colleges and more.

That's another reasonable solution but it's also not likely to happen because of the state's money problems.

Add to all this the fact that almost every city and town in Connecticut has a charter that requires it to adopt a budget weeks, if not months, before the state does the same. So when it comes to how much state aid they want to factor into their plans, all they can do is guess.

# Letters

## State needs fiscal

**EDITOR**

### To the Editor:

While I do realize the State of the State address was at the beginning of the month, the issues presented are too important to disregard. The acknowledgment that Governor [Dannel] Malloy made about education was one that I admired. Children, no matter their area code, should have an equal opportunity of a quality education system.

However, what worried me was how confident he seemed with how we are representing our money. Connecticut is ranked as a state with the worst financial status. With all of the data Governor Malloy proclaimed, why didn't he mention the \$1.65 billion of debt that we are in?

I would have liked to hear

reasoning for why Governor Malloy has increased taxes a substantial amount, cut state employees by 28 percent and yet we are in the worst debt in history. Where is the proof that he has made all of these cuts?

I also would have liked to hear more about the proposal of bringing back tolls on the bridges. People are moving out of Connecticut and no one is moving in.

It is putting more pressure on us residents to make up for the deficit. He has taxed everything in sight and overextended himself. We're not ahead of the game, we're behind it.

*Alexandra Emmanuel*

## WVAA offers appreciation

### To the Editor:

I want to publicly thank Fire Chief Rich Bailey and the Wethersfield

Fire Department for all of the assistance provided to the Wethersfield Volunteer Ambulance Association on Tuesday, March 14. The weather and road conditions were brutal and the WFD was instrumental in allowing us to respond to multiple medical emergencies that day.

Chief Bailey and his volunteers helped guide us to the scenes and obtain access to our patients. I also want to thank the Wethersfield Police Department and Aetna Ambulance who were tremendous throughout the course of a very challenging day.

Finally, the hard work of the town employees who cleared walkways and driveways to allow us to get to our patients is also greatly appreciated.

*Dennis P. McMahon*  
Chief, WVAA





BY MARK DIXON  
WFSB METEOROLOGIST [AMS]



## A Warm, Snowy winter...

**M**eteorological Winter is defined as the months of December, January and February. For the Greater Hartford Area, records have been kept since 1905 and are currently maintained at Bradley International Airport in Windsor Locks. So how did this winter compare to others?

The average temperature for the season was 33.0° ... that's 3.9° above normal and makes this past winter, 2016-17, the 10th warmest! This is just one year after the 2nd warmest winter (in 2015-16, the average temperature was 35.1°— just 0.1° away from the record warmest, the winter of 2001-02). Last winter, records were also set for the number of 50°

and 60° days.

At Bridgeport (another official recording station in Connecticut), January went down as the warmest on record at 6.8° above normal. It was then followed by one of the warmest Februarys, the 28 days averaged 6.0° above normal.

During the course of the season, Windsor Locks had 8.71" of precipitation (rain, plus the water equivalent of snow, sleet and ice),

this was 0.85" below average. Total snowfall was 41.2", an impressive 10.5" above average (a daily snowfall record was set on February 9th, with Blizzard Chris – 15.5" was received, breaking the prior record of 13.0" from 1969).

When making comparisons to 'normal' ... a 30-year span of time from 1981 to 2010 is used. **WL**



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## Living Spaces

# Picking favorites

Gardeners share special tools

by Marc Dresner  
Staff Writer

**A**nyone who likes to garden knows that you need some basic tools just to get started.

However, Sarah Bailey of UConn Extension in West Hartford said you don't need a shed full of implements to be successful.

"I can do a substantial amount of my routine gardening tasks with two tools: a trowel and my pruners. I have a variety of trowels in convenient locations, but one pair of pruners travels with me everywhere. I have holes in the back pocket of most of my pants and shorts where the pruners have worn through," she said.

Bailey, who serves as state extension master gardener coordinator, Hartford County Master gardener coordinator and youth gardening coordinator, finds many uses for the pruners.

"I use them for cutting twine, trimming small branches and non woody plant material, snipping off diseased or pest-infested plant tips, and plenty of



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## Living Spaces

mundane tasks such as opening plastic packaging of plant ties or hose parts. They are a critical element of hose repair, which seems to be an ongoing process," she said.

"There are plenty of very good pruners available, but my longtime partner is a pair of Felco #7 pruners. ... They are not cheap, but they last forever. I have had my pair for over 20 years and they're still going strong."

The feel of a tool is important even for someone who grows plants professionally, such as Brenda Sullivan of Thompson Street Farm in Glastonbury.

"Hand garden tools can take on a personal attachment for gardeners with their size, weight and handle type being key individual factors. Even a veteran gardener like myself can become frustrated with an excessively heavy, bulky or otherwise inefficient tool," she noted.

"Sometimes a gardener must think outside the box and adapt a tool from someplace else as I did with my most prized garden tool: an old masonry trowel.

"This beautiful tool from the early part of the 20th century was left to me by Uncle Larry who inherited it from his father after he died in the 1930s. To my surprise, the worn handle from decades of use is the



**Above:** Brenda Sullivan of Thompson Street Farm in Glastonbury is attached to this masonry trowel, which has been passed down through the generations. **Right:** Cheryl DePrest, founder of the Olga Bobbi line of skincare, jokes that her husband, Channel 3 Chief Meteorologist Bruce DePrest (pictured), is her favorite to work with in the garden. The two have an extensive organic garden.

perfect size for my hand, and the trowel is well-balanced and not too heavy even after hours of use. This is important because during the growing season, I prepare 50-plus micro-green trays a week so the use of a heavy hand tool fatigues my hand and wrist," she continued. "I also love this trowel for its tapered end that fits perfectly in the corners of the tray allowing for even soil distribution as well as for its efficiency as a transplanting tool in the garden."

Cheryl DePrest of Wethersfield, founder of Olga Bobbi skincare products, also has a favorite in her gar-

den. In her case, however, her favorite is a "who" and not a "what": her husband Bruce DePrest, chief meteorologist at Channel 3.

"Bruce and I love to garden and this is a project that we enjoy together. We have a perennial garden and an organic herb/vegetable garden every year. Our herb garden is always the same. Parsley, basil, sage, thyme, oregano, tarragon, lemon verbena and rosemary are a must," Cheryl DePrest said. "This year our vegetable garden will consist of many varieties of green beans; a variety of peppers, including habanero, Bruce's



favorite; cucumbers; and several kinds of cherry tomatoes – we like them sweet."

They grow everything organically, and Cheryl uses the lemon verbena, rosemary and cucumbers in soaps for her Olga Bobbi line.

"Bruce loves making his yummy marinara sauce with fresh basil and oregano," Cheryl shared. "Last year we had so much basil that I was able to make 10 batches of pesto, some of which we froze for the winter. This is a family favorite."

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## Living Spaces



# Effortlessly chic

## The absence of color is all the rage in home decorating

**W**hite is a versatile color in home decorating and renovation. White helps any space look effortlessly chic, blends well with just about any color and can be incorporated into various design styles - from modern to traditional.

While the color white is always trendy, the paint manufacturers Benjamin Moore chose white (Simply White OC-117) as its "it" color for 2016. White can be used nearly anywhere inside and outside the home. Improving interior and exterior spaces with white elements is easier than you might think, and it instantly can make anything look as good as new.

### Kitchen

While rich cherrywood cabinets and deeply hued granite countertops have long been popular in kitchens,

creamy white cabinets paired with blonde wood countertops can work together to make kitchens seem open and airy. If all white is not your thing, brighten up kitchen spaces with white canisters, cookie jars and a fresh bouquet of white flowers to add instant appeal.

### Living Room

Use white as a base color for living room spaces so you can build on it with other hues on pillows and draperies, mixing and matching however you see fit.

Homeowners who have children and/or pets should look for furniture with removable slipcovers. This way they're easily removed and laundered.

### Bathroom

White bathrooms look fresh and are easy to clean and maintain. White

tiles provide a classic look. Include colored bath mats, towels and shower curtains to break up the white as you see fit. A neutral white base makes it easy to switch out color schemes whenever you feel like it.

### Bedroom

Feminine and fresh, white bedrooms may not be the first choice for novice designers. If the prospect of white on white seems too sterile, offset deeper hues on bed linens and walls with white furniture. This provides some pop against the darker contrast. Keep in mind that doing a bed up in all white means it will always be easy to find matching sheets and pillowcases, making it possible to ensure everything looks cohesive and crisp.

### Outdoors

Use white paint on trims, shutters,

mailboxes and more to provide that pop of contrast against the rest of the home.

White complements just about every color, making it a versatile choice on a home's accents regardless of the main exterior color of that home.

White and other light shades will reflect the sun as well, contributing to cooler temperatures on walkways, decks and other structures, which can be advantageous to homeowners who live in warm climates.

Is it any wonder that white continues to be a classic and popular color to use around the home?

Whether you do so with monochromatic rooms or accent pieces, you can incorporate white into design plans throughout your home. **WL**

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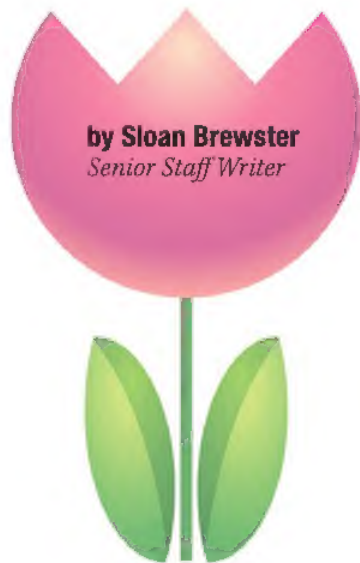
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## Living Spaces

# Sprucing up town spaces for spring

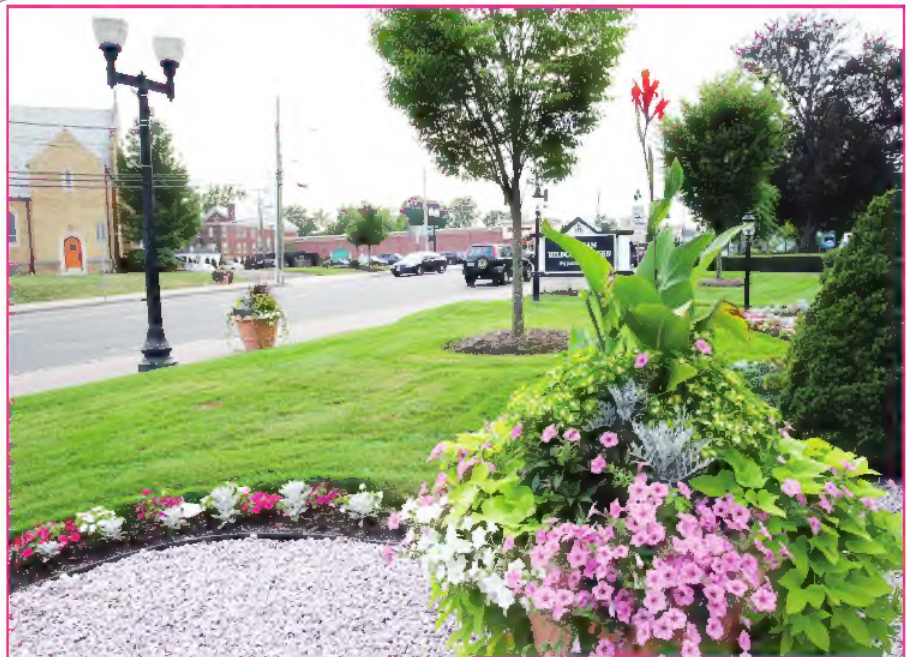
by Sloan Brewster  
Senior Staff Writer



Elmwood business owners purchased 61 planters for the town of West Hartford last spring.

**A**s spring blooms, local volunteers gear up to plant flowers and beautify their towns.

In most towns, May is the month when blossoms are planted in garden plots throughout town centers and in



containers, such as window boxes and flower pots, adorning walkways and islands on busy streets.

These arrangements, beautiful as they are, do not appear by magic aided by flower fairies. Rather, volunteers from garden clubs and beautifi-

cation organizations take on the tasks of making and caring for the plantings.

The Garden Club of Avon has been doing spring plantings at the Town Hall complex and in the center of town for many, many years, said



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## Living Spaces

Jan Brigham.

"It's one of our biggest projects that we do," she said.

Members of the club's Civic Committee go to the Pickin' Patch where they choose flowers for the window boxes at Town Hall and the garden patches in the complex, Brigham said. There are about four different varieties in each box.

The flowers, which are put in in May just before Memorial Day and removed in October, are changed from year to year.

Last year, they included variegated geraniums, which have different color levels and stand out prettily against the brick walls, said Ann Clark, Civic Committee co-chair. Superbells were also in the mix.

"[They come in] a variety of colors, white, yellow, red, purple," she said. "They go from a deep red to a medium red even into the pink family, and those are really low maintenance and they can sort of droop over the window box."

In the garden plots, they planted

lantana, astilbe and begonias, which are tolerant of the large amounts of shade in the area and don't require a great deal of sunlight.

"We did different colors. We did white, we did yellow and we did red," Clark said.

In past years, they have planted thyme and sweet potato vines, which also vary in color from green to dark red, Clark said. When volunteers pull the plants up, there are actually sweet potatoes in the ground.

At the Memorial Garden on the Town Green, they chose patriotic arrangements.

"We did red, white and blue," Clark said. "Red geraniums, white petunias and blue ageratum."

Flowers are placed so that the tallest ones are in the back and the shortest in the front, with those of mid-height in between the rows of taller and shorter flowers, Brigham said.

The work isn't over when the plants are put in either. For about the next six months, volunteers care for and maintain the plants, making

schedules to water, weed and remove the dead flower heads. How much they do depends on weather conditions

"It all depends. The weather is our big problem," Clark said.

Brigham, who is 84, has been gardening for 50 years and has been in the club since 1981.

"I think it's just being outdoors and watching your flower garden flourish," she said of why she enjoys it.

In Wethersfield, the Wethersfield Beautification Trust has been doing the plantings for more than 20 years, according to Maragaret Sacks, who is known as the Queen of the Gardens.

The trust, which is a registered non-profit, was started in 1996 by Sey and Carol Adil, during plans for a big town celebration, Sacks said. At a Town Council meeting, it was decided that the town should be spruced up during the affair and the Adils took on the task.

Since then the trust has evolved, in part due to a smaller contingency of volunteers.

"As with many of these things, they start out wider and then contract a bit," Sacks said. "It's harder to get volunteers."

Volunteers from the trust plant and maintain 60 cement planters in the historical areas of town in Old Wethersfield and the business district, on the Silus Deane Highway as well as 23 garden plots in parks and other key spots.

Like in Avon, the planters are planted in May and pulled out in October.

Volunteers get together on the third Saturday in May, said Marguerite Alpert, garden club member.

"We call it Plant Distribution Day," she said. "Essentially, we have all the volunteers come and pick up all the plants"

Then they disperse, taking the plants, containers, mulch and whatever else they need for the task ahead.

Alpers creates the designs, assuring that all the plantings look more or less uniform.

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## Living Spaces

They include colorful annuals and perennials and grasses with beautiful seed heads that can survive through the cooler days of spring and fall and the hot months of summer.

"Whatever looks good in the containers," she said. "They have to be plants who pass muster as far as being kind of tough."

Some of the blossoms, which they get from Fair Weather Acres in Rocky Hill, include canna lilies, lantana and trailing portulaca flowers and other flowers that are tolerant of bright sunlit areas.

The gardens are designed by the volunteers that plant them, according to Sacks.

"There's quite a bit of variety depending on the volunteers. Some of them are professional gardeners," she said. "They all look lovely, but they're all quite different."

Last year, Sacks and another volunteer had to make some tweaks to a plot on the island at the intersection of Main and Marsh streets after the town completed some roadwork and

turned the intersection into a four-way stop.

"It impinged on the garden area that we had done for years," Sacks said. "So we went out there on a day in spring and dug out some of the rosebushes."

They replanted the bushes to another spot on the island and took out some plants and put in others.

Alpert joined the trust when she was pregnant with her first son, who is now in college.

"When my kids were very young, that was the civic thing we did," she said of plantings they maintained in Old Wethersfield Village. "We would go there and water and take care of the flowers and make sure everything looked nice."

Last year, Charlie Hilborn, owner of Sheehan-Hilborn-Breen Funeral Home in Elmwood and active member of the Elmwood Business Association, took on the mission of beautifying the neighborhood.

Through KNOX of Hartford, Elmwood business owners purchased

61 planters for the town of West Hartford. According to its website, KNOX was started by Hartford councilwoman Betty Knox in 1966 when she established a trust fund to help improve the city. Now KNOX coordinates a variety of greening programs, including a Community Gardening Program and Blooms Planters.

Blooms Planters is a program to beautify storefronts or businesses with planters.

In Hartford, each year, crews from KNOX prepare 300 planters with flowering annuals and centerpieces for citywide beautification, the website reads. The program is coordinated in partnership with volunteers and the Hartford Business Improvement District.

The program works in conjunction with business owners who pay \$180 per planter, which covers the planter, its upkeep throughout the season and its later removal.

Since the program was such a success last year, Hilborn is planning to do it again this year.

"I've already spoken to the Knox Foundation. They will be very happy to work with us this year," he said. "I'm hoping to get at least 60 out here this year."

KNOX will start its growing season in April, he said on Friday, March 17. Last April, he toured the greenhouse.

"At that point they were gorgeous," he said.

This year, business owners from the Design District New Park Avenue and Bishops Corner areas of town are also planning to work with KNOX to get some planters in their areas, Hilborn said. The Park Road Association also wants to join the effort.

"To quote my phrase, 'Elmwood is blooming,'" he said. "Well, the whole town should be blooming."

KNOX puts the planters in in mid-June and removes them in October, unless business owners want them switched to chrysanthemums, which are maintained through November. **WL**

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# Harmful and helpful insects in the garden

**A**lthough it's virtually impossible to count them, insects are the most diverse group of organisms on the planet. At any given time, it is estimated that there are around 10 quintillion individual insects living. Gardeners grow frustrated when seeing their gardens infested with insects, but gardeners would be wise to learn which insects are hurting their gardens and which can actually help gardens in the long run before eradicating them.

## Harmful

**Aphids:** These insects suck on the juice needed to sustain plants, par-

ticularly when they congregate.

**Bald-faced hornet:** Hornets tend to be an aggressive species that can sting repeatedly. Should you find a nest near an entertaining space or garden, it can cause trouble.

**Carpenter ants:** These ants will burrow into wood causing damage. They may compromise any wooden structure in and around a home.

**Locusts:** Various species of locust can damage plants and crops due to their voracious appetites.

**Treehoppers:** These small, green insects mimic the look of leaves, and their appetites can affect crops and gardens.

**Red pavement ant:** As they feed on all manner of human food, these

ants can quickly overtake areas with their staggering numbers and deliver painful bites.

**Grasshoppers:** Certain grasshoppers, like the red-legged grasshopper, can decimate food crops and transfer parasites to birds when eaten as prey.

**Caterpillars:** Many caterpillars, the precursor to adult moths, will feed constantly on leaves, stems and other parts of plants.

## Helpful

**Antlion:** A foe of ants, they'll help eat and control ant populations and pollinate flowers. They pose no threat to humans, either.

**Big dipper firefly:** These colorful

insects feast on earthworms, slugs and snails during the larval stage.

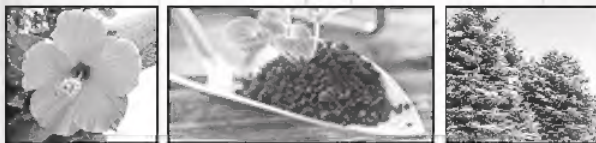
**Garden spiders:** Although some spiders can be venomous, many are handy to have around the garden. They'll help control pest populations that can damage plants and crops.

**Dragonflies:** These arial artists that zip around the yard are consuming smaller insects that would otherwise pester plants and humans.

**Blue-winged wasp:** This wasp attacks the larvae of Japanese beetles, helping to control beetle populations.

**Bees and butterflies:** Butterflies and bees are some of the best pollinators and add whimsy to gardens. **WL**

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